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Page 5

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Page 7

### Index

Bazaar	5
Business	8
Crossword	11
Movies/TV	11
Opinion	6
Sports	10

## Dore Gold named UN envoy

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday announced the appointment of Dore Gold, his political adviser, as Israel's new ambassador to the United Nations. Uzi Arad, head of the Mossad's research department, will replace Gold as Netanyahu's adviser, the Prime Minister's Office said.

Gold, who before becoming an adviser to Netanyahu headed the department of US foreign policy in the Middle East at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, takes over from acting ambassador David Peleg. The post of ambassador has not been filled for a year, since David Jacoby, appointed by the previous Labor government, concluded his term.

Gold, 43, is from West Hartford, Connecticut. He immigrated in 1980, after completing a Ph.D. in Middle East studies at Columbia University.

Elihu Ben-Elissar is to retain his post as ambassador to the US, it was agreed yesterday, after his two meetings with Netanyahu.

"I'm the Israeli ambassador in Washington and have every intention of continuing my work," Ben-Elissar said yesterday afternoon.

Ben-Elissar, who flew in to Jerusalem on Tuesday for urgent talks with Netanyahu amid rumors that the prime minister intended to replace him with Gold, appeared relieved yesterday upon coming out of his second meeting with the prime minister.

"Disappointed? I am happy and content," he told reporters, noting that the wave of rumors about the intention to fire him had damaged his work and adding that he was returning to Washington "to rebuild the debris."

Blasting those who spread critical reports of his performance and rumors of his replacement, Ben-Elissar said, "I have been under immense pressure. I realize how much damage this kind of campaign can cause to a man who goes above and beyond his powers to present and represent Israel's interests in the United States."

Ben-Elissar denied reports that he had wanted to be appointed head of the Mossad, saying, "This idea was born in someone's feverish imagination."



Dore Gold  
(David Rubinger)



### Authority heads intensify protest

Employees of the Sapir Local Council march toward the Prime Minister's Office yesterday to demand a resolution to the local authorities' debt crisis. An estimated 7,000 workers took part in the protest, and were stopped from entering the compound by police. Interior Minister Eli Suissa came to express solidarity with the demonstrators, saying that although their demands are just, a solution has not yet been found.

(Brian Handley)

## Soldier seriously hurt by explosion in south Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

An IDF soldier was seriously wounded in an explosion in the security zone yesterday morning, as the escalation in hostilities in south Lebanon continued.

The soldier, suffering from chest wounds, was brought by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, after a stopover during the flight to enable doctors to carry out an emergency operation.

### Weizman: We must talk with Syria, Page 12

His condition in the hospital's intensive care unit remained serious, but stable last night.

The soldier, a dog-handler, was with a joint unit of paratroopers and Givati Brigade soldiers which left the Beaufort Castle area yesterday morning on a road-clearing patrol.

His dog, apparently specially trained to detect explosives, was part of the patrol whose aim was to ensure the road, leading to nearby Amoun village, was free of any devices or mines and that there were no terrorists in the region. However, an explosion wounded the dog-handler and lightly hurt his dog.

It was still not clear by last night whether the blast was caused by a roadside bomb or a mine, or whether the dog had discovered the device, which may have been booby-trapped and went off when the handler went to investigate.

The soldiers opened fire in all directions immediately after the blast, in case there were any gunmen in the vicinity.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, saying members of its fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, had detonated a roadside bomb alongside an "enemy foot patrol" at 8:45 a.m. on the road to Amoun.

During the flight to Rambam Hospital, the soldier's condition deteriorated and the doctor aboard decided to carry out an emergency operation. The helicopter landed on a road near Karmiel, where the operation was performed, and then continued its flight to Haifa.

His dog was taken to a veterinary surgeon in the North and later to the center of the country.

Reports from Lebanon said IDF gunners fired at suspected terrorist targets north of the zone following the attack.

According to reports, there have been 140 incidents in south Lebanon since the beginning of the year - 43 of them in April and nearly 30 so far this month.

## Beilin: Officers in favor of Lebanon pullout silenced

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Yossi Beilin, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, called again yesterday for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon, saying that even senior officers in the Northern Command favor such a move.

In an urgent motion to the agenda in the Knesset plenum, he said it would be possible to establish a security fence along the border and deploy soldiers on the Israeli side to help ensure the safety of the northern communities.

He said this could be done on the basis of an understanding with Lebanon. He criticized the fact that every time the subject is raised - even by IDF officers - people try to silence the discussion by saying it is disrespectful to the fallen soldiers, harms morale, and feeds fears by the South Lebanese Army that Israel will desert it.

"There are senior officers, even in the Northern Command, who talk about the need, perhaps the necessity, to get out of there [South Lebanon], and they are also silenced," he said.

"And I ask myself, 'Who must speak out? Who is allowed to speak out? Who and when can someone open their mouth and say, 'Enough?' After all, somebody has to have the courage to say, 'No more.'"

Beilin said the fear of pulling out prevents the government from being open to more creative solutions.

"Israel can solve the problem of the SLA without being there. To protect the North, you don't have to be abroad," he said.

He said it is not the security zone that prevents Katyusha fire on northern Israel, but the understanding reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Ephraim Sneh, another Labor leadership candidate and a former commander in South Lebanon, completely rejected Beilin's stand, describing it as "based on a huge mistaken premise, irresponsible, and impractical." He said Beilin was not speaking for the Labor Party on the subject.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds: IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami rejected Beilin's accusations that senior IDF officers, particularly those in the Northern Command, are hushed up when they speak of leaving the security zone. He said it is the definite IDF position that Israel remain in the security zone.

"As a result of discussions and situation assessments that are held in the IDF, under the existing factors, the only way to ensure the safety of the residents of the North is by keeping IDF and SLA forces in the security zone," Ben-Ami said.

## US, Israel slam Arafat

### Blast land death penalty

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

The US and Israel yesterday sharply criticized Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for saying he backs a law imposing the death penalty for land sales to Jews.

"Frankly, his comments this morning are comments that we cannot support, are comments that leave us quite puzzled as to why he would say those things," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"The United States condemns any law or any decree that would threaten death against any Palestinian for selling land to Israelis or Jews," Burns told a news briefing. "That's wrong. It's contrary to what must prevail in the Middle East, which is peace."

"Chairman Arafat must stand up for the rule of law. He must defend it in what he says and what he does, and frankly the recent statements by members of his administration ... inciting Palestinians to attack and murder other Palestinians for selling land, those statements are reprehensible."

Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh said yesterday the government will complain to the United Nations over the PA's decision to impose the death penalty on people who sell land to Jews.

Arafat said in an interview with

Yedioth Aharanot yesterday that he backs the recent decision to enforce an old Jordanian law in the West Bank imposing the death penalty for land sales to Jews.

"We are talking about isolated traitors," Arafat said. "And we will impose against them what is on the law books. That is our right and our obligation to protect our land."

Palestinian security forces arrested 15 land dealers from the Hebron area yesterday. They were asked about their business contacts with Jews and "the investigators left no doubt regarding what is liable to happen if my good connections with Jews continue," one of those arrested said yesterday.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani criticized Arafat in a Knesset plenum discussion on the murder of two Arab land dealers who sold property to Jews.

"We haven't seen this style, which allows someone to murder someone else without a trial, for a long time in the Middle East," Kahalani said. "Does Arafat allow every person on the street to take the law into his own hands?"

"If today he permits the murder of land dealers, tomorrow it will be something else ... I think his very statements will cause this sort of violence in the Palestinian Authority areas, which it will not be able to stop in the future."

Kahalani said Israel would not ignore the matter. He also promised protection to those who require it. "As for residents of eastern Jerusalem, Israeli citizens, we will protect and defend them," he said.

Kahalani said he is "very worried by what's happening in eastern Jerusalem."

See ARAFAH, Page 2

## Journalist Kuttab held in Ramallah Prison

By JON IMMANUEL

Daoud Kuttab, a Palestinian journalist and broadcaster, is being held in Ramallah Prison apparently because he televised the live proceedings of the Palestinian legislative council.

Kuttab, who heads Al-Quds TV, a private station, complained to Palestinian Authority members that his channel was being jammed by the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation whenever he broadcast the legislative council sessions.

Kuttab told The Jerusalem Post three weeks ago that four sessions in a row were jammed, though nothing controversial was discussed. The last session this week was not jammed.

Kuttab is a US citizen and holds a Jerusalem resident's identity card, which means that he is not under the jurisdiction of the PA.

The US consul visited him yesterday, his family said.

"They don't have the right to arrest him, nor has he committed a crime, but that's what they call democracy," the relative said.

Kuttab was summoned to the police station in Ramallah on Tuesday morning for questioning, and was then held overnight.

The relative said police had wanted to release Kuttab, but said they could do nothing until PA Chairman Yasser Arafat returns from Cairo today.

The jamming of the broadcasts, seen in the weeks ago that four sessions in a row were jammed, though nothing controversial was discussed. The last session this week was not jammed.

At the time, Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for Arafat who is also a council member, said "whether or not an official body is doing the jamming it should be stopped."



Daoud Kuttab  
(Efraim Kishon)

## Scholars scoff at 'inflated' Holocaust report

By ELI WOHLGELERNTER

Calling the report "idiotic," "childish," "stupid," and "pure nonsense," Holocaust historians here said that documents released by Britain on Monday reveal no new evidence, and that it is impossible there were seven million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

"Seven million Jews died, you would have to prove that they lived before that," said Prof. Yehuda

Bauer of the Hebrew University and Yad Vashem. "Because of the statistics that are quite clear today - at least in a general outline of who survived the Holocaust and how many survived, and how many were there before the Holocaust started - it would mean inventing another million [Jews]."

Britain's Public Record Office released some 10,000 pages of classified files on Monday, which included secret radio messages sent by German troops advancing into the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941. These messages, decoded by the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, detail the first action of mass murder taken by the Nazis against Jewish civilians.

But the knowledge of these actions, according to Bauer and Dr. Yitzhak Arad, former chairman of Yad Vashem, is nothing new.

"It's idiotic," said Bauer. "We have known that the mass murder of the Jews began with the invasion of the Soviet Union by the Nazis from the Nuremberg trials, so this has been basic knowledge for the last 52 years. To say today that this is a new discovery is just childish, to put it mildly."

Release of the files prompted misleading news stories around the world, including in The Jerusalem Post. Some media reported that - besides the possibility of seven million Jews having been killed, and the "discovery" that the Final Solution began earlier than previously believed -

the Allies, including Winston Churchill, knew of Hitler's plans to annihilate all the Jews.

The released documents only provide a bit more detail of what took place, Bauer said. When put together with what was already known, these "are really kind of a detailed accounting of local pogroms. At least that's what the people at Bletchley must have deduced. Nobody could have deduced from those figures that there was a plan to murder all Jews, and certainly not a figure of six million. Nobody could predict that," said Bauer.

Moreover, he continued, the decoded radio transmissions from the German police units only continued until mid-September of 1941, "because after that they were

told not to mention what the nationality was, and in any case not to report by radio about executions, but to keep it in written form, only top secret."

"So we are dealing with a short period of two and a half months. To say that from that anyone could conclude what the policy was is simply unrealistic."

"No figure could be extrapolated - none at all - because you didn't know if these murders were taking place only in the framework of the war against the Soviet Union, or whether they were also going to be expanded into Poland and countries further west, north, or south. Nobody could know that."

See HOLOCAUST, Page 2

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## NEWS

in brief

### Hamas terror cell members apprehended

Israeli security forces have arrested over a dozen Palestinians suspected of belonging to a Hamas terror cell operating in the Hebron area, the IDF said. The fugitives were planning to carry out attacks against Israelis and are currently being interrogated by Israeli security agents. The arrests centered around the village of Beit Fajar, between Hebron and Bethlehem.

Arieh O'Sullivan

### Cairo embassy protests abuse of Netanyahu

Ambassador to Egypt Zvi Mazel has submitted a formal protest to Egyptian authorities after a lawyer at the trial of Azzam Azzam, an Israeli accused of espionage, called Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a dog and a murderer.

Lawyer Murtada Mansour also shouted, "you despicable Israeli, you dog," at David Govrin, a first secretary at the Israeli Embassy. The hearing took place Sunday and Mansour, a prominent lawyer, was not part of the trial.

Mazel said he hoped that such incidents would not occur again, an embassy statement said.

AP

### Russia to send crime investigators here

Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov held talks here yesterday with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz on combating mafia operations.

Hefetz said detectives from Russia would come here to help investigate the case of suspected Russian mafia head Zvi Ben-Ari, also known as Gregory Lerner.

Kahalani said he had prepared a list of names of 34 immigrants from the former Soviet Union whose Israeli citizenship may be revoked on suspicion of involvement with the Russian mafia. The two countries also are expected to sign a cooperation agreement on combating organized crime and terrorism.

Iim

### Slomiansky uses loophole to stay head of Elkana

MK Nissan Slomiansky (NRP), who was sworn in this week in place of Avraham Stern who died last week, has used a legal loophole to also continue serving as the head of the Elkana Local Council.

Slomiansky produced a legal opinion which states that although the law on parliamentary privileges and immunity bars MKs who joined this Knesset from serving as the heads of local councils, the law does not apply to Elkana because it is over the Green Line.

Slomiansky, who was among the founders of Elkana, said although he supports extending Israeli law to include all Judea, Samaria and Gaza, he was prepared to exploit this technicality to show how absurd the current situation is.

Lia Collins

### Four injured after car crashes into bus stop

Four people were injured — one seriously — when a car drove into a bus stop in Kiryat Haim and then fled, in what was first believed to be a terrorist attack.

However, when the driver, a 38-year-old Shfaram man, was later apprehended police said he had apparently lost control of the car as a result of a health condition and had fled due to fear of being attacked. The driver is being held for questioning.

Also yesterday, a tractor driver was killed when his vehicle overturned while he was working in the Kfar Menachem area. A rescue team from Ashkelon arrived on the scene and declared him dead.

In Petah Tikva, one person was killed and two injured when a bread truck and a potato truck collided when the latter went through a red light. A 30-year-old Bat Yam man in the bread truck was crushed and declared dead at the scene.

In April, 38 people were killed on the roads and 228 were seriously injured.

Iim

### Water management parley planned at Technion

An international workshop on negotiating water management will be held at the Technion next week, with the participation of Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli experts.

Organized by the Technion's Ne'eman Institute and UNESCO, under the patronage of the Israel Committee for Hydrology, the three-day event will challenge the experts to prepare approaches for water management in areas involved in conflict. The ecological, cultural, legal and psychological aspects of the problems will be discussed, and game theory will be used.

Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein, who took part in water talks since the Madrid Conference, will deliver a guest lecture.

Judy Siegel

# Hearing set for Rehov Bar-Ilan

## High Court to discuss Levy's ruling to close street on Shabbat

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The High Court of Justice will hold a hearing this morning on the decision by Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy to close Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, but it is uncertain what exactly the court will be considering.

Following Levy's ruling on Sunday that the street would be closed during prayer hours on the evening and day of Shabbat and holidays, a petition was filed by Meretz MK Yossi Sarid and Jerusalem city councilman Omer Yekutieli asking for a temporary injunction against the decision.

Yekutieli said yesterday that they had withdrawn the request for a temporary injunction, "because we want to see how the process works for two to three weeks," but that the court would hold a session today on the issue anyway.

The court may decide to issue the temporary injunction, and rule on Levy's decision later, perhaps next month; or it may decide to immediately issue a ruling on the whole episode.

Should the court decide not to issue the restraining order, and to postpone any final decision, then Levy's ruling will take effect beginning tomorrow night.

Yekutieli said that a few cars plan to show up at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, when the road is supposed to be open to all traffic, to see if cars are permitted to pass through.

The secular residents who live in the area, who are supposed to be allowed to drive through at any time, had not as of yesterday been given any stickers for their cars that would allow them through.



Traffic signs go up near Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday in preparation for the closure of the street during prayer times this Shabbat.

(Brian Heller)

Aliza Avinezer, a secular resident of the area, said she was promised she would get her sticker today, but that it will make no difference.

"Do you think I will drive during prayer time? I will not do it, because I am afraid, because everyone will know now that I am secular and I drive on Shabbat."

Before when I drove on Shabbat, nobody saw me. There were a lot of cars. But me alone, driving on Shabbat, or with the others with stickers? It's a provocation and I will not do it. I live alone, I can't do it, I must compromise."

Avinezer said that although Levy decided that the problem would best be solved by giving out stickers,

she had a better idea: "Why not solve the problem by suggesting new apartments? If we are secular, and we are disturbing them, then give us money [to leave] and you will have the road to yourself."

Although she has lived in the neighborhood for all of her 50 years, Avinezer said she would immediately take an apartment

somewhere else if offered.

"Of course, what can I do? Stay with them? It's not pleasant living with them. I hate them. I don't tell anyone — on TV I can't say that I hate them, but I hate them. I don't say all the haredim are terrible. But most of them, the people shouting on the road, I don't know what to do."

## Benizri: PA wants Yosef for negotiations

By SARAH HONIG

There may be a new Middle East mediator — Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Shas party chairman MK Arye Deri told Channel 1 last night that if Yosef decides that the government has abandoned the peace process, "he won't sit there for one minute."

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said PA officials have been showering Yosef with requests that he confer with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. Yosef hasn't yet made up his mind as to whether he should do that, Benizri said.

However, "a meeting between the rabbi and Arafat may happen soon," he said, and if Yosef meets Arafat "he will do so with an eye to mediating between the sides and attempting to break the deadlock between Israel and the PA."

Yosef recently received PA National Security Forces commander Maj.-Gen. Nasser Yusef.

But while it is not clear whether Yosef will decide to talk to Arafat, Benizri did say that Yosef does plan to talk to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu soon.

"The rabbi will summon Netanyahu to him in a few days and will want to hear a report on where things stand now in the peace talks. He will urge Netanyahu to press ahead with the process," he said.

Benizri added that he expects Yosef "will not present Netanyahu with an ultimatum whereby his coalition would be threatened if he doesn't make moves which would lead to the talks being renewed."

A number of foreign diplomats, including US Ambassador Martin Indyk and European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos, have visited Yosef recently. Sources close to the prime minister expressed displeasure with these visits, saying they are geared to exert pressure on the government by meddling in Israel's internal affairs.



### Big donors

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg signs a NIS 4.7 million check yesterday before presenting the donation to Yad Sarah Chairman Rabbi Uri Lupoliansky.

(Tav-Or)

## Justice minister trashes former attorney-general Ben-Yair

By LIAT COLLINS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday avoided answering several motions to the agenda on the acquittal of Ya'acov Ne'eman on perjury charges, but used the opportunity to attack former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair.

Several coalition MKs also criticized the former attorney-general in their motions, claiming he had acted improperly and out of irrelevant considerations. "It seems to me that Michael Ben-Yair is in any case on his way to this House," said Hanegbi. "I can see he is very busy with political activities and certainly he will have the opportunity to be in the coming years to answer for himself what has been said here."

MK Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) accused Ben-Yair of trying to "torpedo Ne'eman's appointment as justice minister by tossing in the air the charges against him." Hendel called for a full examination into the work of the attorney-general and State Attorney's Office.

"It's not a holy cow. There are perhaps saints and righteous people, [but] there are also those who aren't and they should be thrown out of there," he said.

He called on the prime minister to immediately reinstate Ne'eman as justice minister.

Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) said that, since all people are equal in the eyes of the law, Ben-Yair should be investigated to find out his motives for indicting Ne'eman, and whether it had not harmed the democratic rule of law.

Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) said he congratulated Ne'eman on his acquittal, but at the same time rejected complaints against the former attorney-general and State Attorney Edna Arbel. "Such attacks could harm an essential link in the preservation of the rule of law," he said.

Ben-Yair's reaction was not available.

### ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

Kahalani added: "I believe so far we have failed to boost our presence [there]; we lack forces; we need to increase building there."

He said every effort must be made to move more public institutions to eastern Jerusalem and "make the eastern side look exactly like the western side."

The PA is cooperating in the investigation of the murders, Kahalani said, but he ignored interjections asking if the PA was involved in the deaths.

Nine MKs filed motions to the agenda regarding the murders of the land dealers. National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat called for Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi and the PA-appointed mufti of Jerusalem to be questioned for their possible role in incitement that preceded

the deaths. Porat also read out the names of three men he said are among Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub's activists operating in eastern Jerusalem.

Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said no crime deserves the death penalty, but added: "It is not the trampling of human rights that is making the right-wing call out, but the struggle [by the Palestinians] to stop the sale of Arab lands to Jews."

Meanwhile, a former Palestinian land dealer was reported missing yesterday, raising fears of a third killing. Rashid Salameh, 48, who in recent years was believed to have worked with the Palestinian security services, has been missing since April 4, his son Ahmed said.

"He was meeting two Arab land dealers from Jerusalem," Ahmed Salameh said. "He was supposed to record the conversa-

tion and hand the tape to the Palestinian Preventive Security Service."

Salameh was forced to flee his hometown of Kalkilya during the intifada, because he was discovered to have belonged to an organization which sold land to Jews, Ahmed said. Two of Salameh's partners were killed by members of Arafat's Fatah group.

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), who heads the Land of Israel Front caucus, said he will open a telephone hot line today for Arab land dealers who feel threatened. The hot line will be operated together with the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The phone number is: (03)-638-8970.

### ARRIVALS

Arrival for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University. From Brazil: Beza Hukun

## Hanegbi, MK Shalom to hold political rally against Ne'eman

By SARAH HONIG

Two of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's most veteran supporters in the Likud — Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and MK Sylvan Shalom — are holding a political rally tonight aimed at preventing the reappointment of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman.

Hanegbi and Shalom both stress that this is not an anti-Netanyahu rally, but Likud pundits note that the message to the PM is clear — should he go ahead and reinstate Ne'eman, two of the prime minister's oldest followers will turn against him.

The rally will be held tonight in Likud headquarters at Tel Aviv's Metzudat Ze'ev and the organizers will consider it a success if they manage to attract several hundred participants.

Hanegbi wants to keep the justice portfolio, despite Netanyahu's clear stipulation that it was being kept in trust for Ne'eman until his perjury

trial was over. Now that Ne'eman has been acquitted, Hanegbi fears the portfolio might be slipping from his grasp. Shalom, who is after the science portfolio relinquished by MK Ze'ev Begin, wants Ne'eman kept out, otherwise the maximum quota of 18 ministers will leave no room for him.

Likud insiders said yesterday that even if Hanegbi and Shalom manage to attract a good turnout tonight, they have miscalculated and wasted too much ammunition for too early. Ne'eman is abroad, and Netanyahu has announced that he will not make a move until the High Court makes its final rulings on the Bar-On Affair, including on the question whether Hanegbi can continue in office. All this could take at least a month.

Any impressive show of power which the two may stage tonight will have lost its effect in several weeks time, it is judged in the Likud.

### CORRECTION

The remarks attributed to US Ambassador Martin Indyk in yesterday's story on the US report on settlements were incorrect. The ambassador made no such remarks.

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## Levy: Licenses should list driving instructor and examiner

By LIAT COLLINS

The Transport Ministry plans to issue a new regulation under which drivers' licenses will include the name of the instructor who taught the license holder and the examiner who passed him. Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) made the announcement in the Knesset plenum yesterday when he answered several questions on the agenda regarding the driving test scandal which was recently discovered in the North.

"There are hotels in which the name of the person who cleaned the toilets is listed on the back of the door to the bathroom; elevators list who fixed them; doctors' reports state who gave them, so why should a driver's license not say who tested and taught [the holder]?" Levy asked.

He said having these details listed would deter instructors and

examiners from accepting bribes. He listed other measures being considered to fight the corruption problem, including requiring driving students to sign a card authorizing what dates and hours they attended lessons. This would ensure they had taken a sufficient number before a test and would also prevent the students from shaking off responsibility in corruption cases, he said.



Yitzhak Levy

Levy said his ministry is working on publishing a new manual for the theory test.

The ministry also intends to implement a new policy under which new drivers would be required to undergo an intensive one-day program six months after receiving their license. The program would cover such topics as traffic hazards, driving on wet roads and in poor visibility conditions and pulling over to the side of the road.

## Jordanian soldier who murdered 7 girls goes on trial next week

AMMAN (Reuters) - The Jordanian soldier who shot dead seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls will go on trial in a military court next week charged with premeditated murder, his defense lawyer said yesterday.

Ahmed Daqamsa faces death by hanging if found guilty by the five-member panel of military judges, lawyer Ahmed Nijdawi said.

The trial was due to start on Tuesday at an army base near Naour, a few miles south of Amman, he said.

"He is not worried. He is a faithful man," Nijdawi told Reuters. Daqamsa has not denied shooting the girls as they visited the lush Jordan Valley farmland of Bakoura, leased to Israel in the 1994 treaty and known to Israelis as Naharayim.

But Nijdawi said he acted on the spur of the moment when the girls teased him. He said Daqamsa also justified shooting the teenage girls as a patriotic act.

The pro-government *Al-Dustour* newspaper said yesterday that Daqamsa had planned "more than once to kill a number of Israelis but had then held back."

## Rabbi fighting extradition

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Rabbi Shlomo Helbrans, an Israeli haredi rabbi who was convicted of kidnapping a bar mitzva student, is fighting the US government's order to deport him, contending that he would be endangered if he returned to Israel.

Helbrans spent less than two years in jail for kidnapping Shai Phima-Reuven, who was 13 when he first disappeared in April 1992, after his mother sent him to study for his bar mitzva with Helbrans in Brooklyn.

The boy, from a troubled secular family with a history of abuse, turned up several years later as an observant Jew, after spending time with Helbrans and his associates in Monsey, New York, and Paris. The case attracted wide attention in the US as a bizarre view of a battle between haredi and secular Israelis over the control of a child, waged on American soil.

Helbrans was convicted in 1994, and a US immigration court on March 26 ordered him deported. Under US law, a non-citizen can be deported after conviction of a crime of violence and "moral turpitude."

"We are not sure how [the court] can say this involved violence in view of the fact that there was no physical contact between Rabbi Helbrans and the boy," said Helbrans' lawyer, Michael Wildes. "The boy did not feel threatened."

Wildes contends that the US government is going to extensive lengths to deport Helbrans, a view shared by Helbrans' supporters in Brooklyn's haredi communities. One, who did not want to be identified by name, also suggested that New York Consul General Colette Avital, who was expected to leave the US after the defeat of the Labor Party in last May's election, had delayed her long-anticipated return to Israel until Helbrans was deported. However, the arrival of Avital's successor, Shmuel Siso, is imminent.

Helbrans has been described as a "right-wing anti-Zionist" who leads his own small sect, which has common cause with Satmar hasidism. "My beliefs are far from being popular in America and are even less so in Israel," he told *New York* maga-

zine. "If I was to return there, it would definitely be the end of me. Doesn't the American government understand that?"

However, there is no testimony on record about his fear of returning to Israel, and it was not clear whom he feared might want to do him harm.

However, the *New York Jewish Week* reported that Helbrans might be under investigation in Israel in several instances similar to the Phima-Reuven kidnapping case.

### book department

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# Knesset rejects bill to elect deputy premier

By LIAT COLLINS

The opposition failed to pass a bill which would allow voters in the direct elections to cast a ballot for both the prime minister and a deputy prime minister. The deputy would replace the premier in the event of death or incapacitation, on the lines of the US presidential model. The bill, submitted by Labor MK Ophir Pines, was rejected yesterday - 27 votes in favor, 40 against - but only after raising a mini-storm in the plenum.

The need for such a law was demonstrated with the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Pines said, explaining, "Today, it is clear to any assassin that if the prime minister is killed, the government falls and the country goes to elections."

The debate descended into acrimony after Pines said the coalition objected to the bill because all the political assassinations came from the Right, telling Coalition and Likud faction Chairman Michael Eitan: "You are possibly relying on the fact that Israeli history has shown that the bullets in Israeli society go from Right to Left."

Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi responded that it is the Left which starts the incitement, while Eitan called Pines

claim "ridiculous."

"After all, according to our predictions you won't even have a [Labor] prime minister in the foreseeable future," Eitan said.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi refused to get dragged into the discussion on incitement. He said the idea of electing a deputy prime minister and premier at the same time had been raised and rejected several times for many reasons, one of them being that it could cause a situation in which the deputy constantly interfered with the work of the prime minister.

## Builders for Peace said about to collapse

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - Builders for Peace, which was spawned by the Oslo Accords to much fanfare, is on the verge of collapse, because of its inability to establish greater business ties between American investors and the territories, officials say.

The organization has until late June to raise \$202,000 as a condition for receiving a matching grant from the US Agency for International Development, its sole source of government funds. But even as it seeks those funds, Builders for Peace is examining for the first time whether it ought to continue operating, according to its executive director, Joseph DeSutter.

Although the organization has been a springboard to such high-profile ventures as a Marriott conference center and a power station in Gaza, "You can count on one hand the investment that's been made there," DeSutter acknowledged yesterday. "We've done everything we can, and the track record's not there."

DeSutter said the organization could be salvaged, but added that "the reality is that nothing that we've tried in three-and-a-half years has worked. We've tried to put American investment in place in the West Bank and Gaza and that hasn't worked."

He added: "We've had many threats to our existence... and several junctures where we had to struggle for survival. In all honesty, we're asking ourselves that question: Even if we can do this [raise the funds], is it worth our time and energy?"

An AID official said the rocky state of the peace process has presented a "fundamental kind of problem" to the organization, because it has scared off investment. DeSutter cited Israeli security concerns and protectionism, as well as bureaucratic delays in the American investment insurance agency, OPIC.

"Builders for Peace is now considering a variety of options for raising outside funds, DeSutter said, including instituting a 5 or 10 percent fee for deals it arranges,

and encouraging large companies to join its board of directors and provide generous endowments.

Builders for Peace was an outgrowth of an unprecedented meeting hosted by Vice President Al Gore for Jewish and Arab-Americans on September 13, 1993, an hour after Israel and the PLO signed the landmark Declaration of Principles. In the euphoria of the day, the two ethnic groups decided to join forces and mobilize their business acumen to lend commercial support to Palestinian entrepreneurship. Builders for Peace was then formally established in November 1993.

The organization's most high-profile achievement was the deal to build a Marriott hotel and business center in Gaza. After several fits and starts, ground was broken in March. GRDG Inc. president Ziad Karam of Alexandria, Virginia, the force behind the Marriott project, called private contributions to Builders for Peace an idea "overdue."

He said the organization "really did help us a lot" and that GRDG is considering how it can help financially. But an American small businessman stated that when he recently approached Builders for Peace for assistance in helping import a Palestinian product, he found the organization preoccupied with its own survival.

"There was really no effort to make such a pairing... If they are looking for projects, I would be very surprised. We were handing them something pretty much arranged, with distributors and everything arranged," he said.

The AID official said yesterday that no decision will be made on the funding issue until the group presents its proposal in early June. Builders for Peace co-president Mel Levine pointed to a number of factors to account for the body's failures, but added, "There's no point in quantifying what's to blame."

"The truth is, as President Clinton said to me at one point, Builders may have been conceived a bit too prematurely given the realities on the ground."



Gadna Lt. Shelomit Danile

(Isaac Harari)

## JDC marks sixth anniversary of Operation Solomon

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The Joint Distribution Committee convened a seminar yesterday to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the beginning of Operation Solomon.

Among those speaking at the seminar, which dealt with education as an aid to integration, was Gadna Lt. Shelomit Danile, who helps new immigrants adjust to life in the IDF.

Danile, 20, had been selected to speak for several reasons: she is a member of the Ethiopian community; she is an IDF officer; and she, her parents and her

four siblings came to Israel on Operation Solomon.

The seminar was not entirely a breast-beating or a back-slapping affair. Matti Dagan, director of the Religious Education Authority, also noted mistakes that had been made in the absorption of Ethiopian immigrants. One of the worst of these mistakes, albeit with the best of intentions, he said, was to adopt a patronizing attitude.

Students from the Ethiopian community have enormous academic potential, he said, "but we have to provide the opportunities

for them to become achievers. We have to give them the chance to prove their capabilities."

Had she not been so determined to pass her matriculation exams, Danile said yesterday, the teachers might have succeeded in breaking her spirit.

"They treat all of us as if we're incapable," she said.

"We have to do something to prevent [young Ethiopian immigrants from dropping out of school] before it's too late," she urged, pointing to the mistakes that were made with North African immigrant youth in the 1950s.

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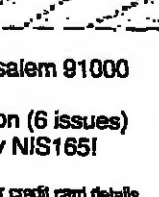
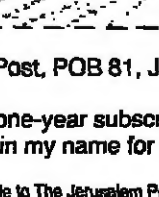
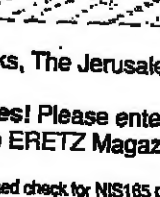
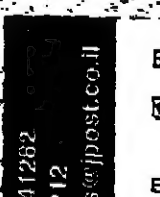
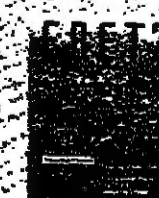
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Britain's Northern Ireland minister, Mo Mowlam, visits Portadown yesterday as part of a tour of areas where the Irish Republican Army enjoys strong support. (AP)

## Sinn Fein, UK restart talks

BELFAST (Reuters) — The IRA's political wing Sinn Fein and British officials began talks yesterday, ending a 16-month freeze on official contacts, in a bid to revive Northern Ireland peace hopes shattered by sectarian violence.

Martin McGuinness, chief negotiator for Sinn Fein, met civil servants for the first time since the Irish Republican Army scrapped a ceasefire in February 1996 after 17 months by setting off a huge bomb in east London.

The meeting followed attempts by Britain's new Labor government to reinvigorate the stalled Northern Ireland peace process.

"From our point of view in Sinn Fein, there is a very strong desire to break the impasse and to move forward to a fair and just political settlement on this island," McGuinness said. "You will also appreciate that we are dealing now with a new British government which has inherited the present situation."

McGuinness was leading a four-member delegation to the talks at Belfast's Stormont Castle.

Late Tuesday, Britain decided to repatriate two convicted Roman Catholic republican prisoners from English jails to a Northern Ireland prison in a move to smooth relations with Sinn Fein.

But outlawed Protestant loyalist fighters urged Britain not to dilute its demand for an unequivocal IRA truce.

Tension has been high amid an IRA resurgence and signs that a truce by the pro-Britain loyalists is crumbling.

Sinn Fein, which wants an unconditional seat in multi-party peace talks, has been cold-shouldered by the British, Irish and US governments because of IRA violence, but has scored significant electoral advances recently.

New British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced last week he would ease a ban on official contacts so that Britain might determine whether the IRA and Sinn Fein were prepared to commit themselves fully to peaceful methods.

# Turk Islamists face legal threat

## Syria, Iran, Iraq troops mass at edge of Kurdish region

News agencies

ANKARA (AP) — In the latest salvo by Turkey's establishment, a prosecutor yesterday accused the ruling Islamic Welfare Party of promoting anti-secular policies and asked the country's highest court to shut it down.

"Welfare has become the center of anti-secular activities, leading the country into a civil-war atmosphere," the prosecutor, Vural Savas, said.

Savas charged Welfare with violating the constitutional principle that Turkey is a democratic, secular state.

A trial will be held before the supreme court, but no date was set immediately.

Newspapers reported Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan already ordered his aides to prepare to launch a new party, should Welfare run into legal problems.

The development came a day after Erbakan's coalition survived a censure motion in parliament brought by opposition parties, which accused the government of undermining secularism.

Erbakan has alarmed Turkey's establishment and the country's allies in NATO with his moves to ease longstanding bans on Islamic clothing and to promote Islamic education.

In February, the National Security Council, whose members include top generals, issued a series of directives to halt attempts to make the country more Islamic. Erbakan has resisted the orders.



Turkish prosecutor Vural Savas calls for the Islamist party to be outlawed at a press conference in his Ankara office yesterday. (Reuters)

Meanwhile, Turkey's state-run Anatolian news agency said yesterday that Syria, Iraq and Iran had built up their forces near the borders of the Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq where Turkish troops are fighting Kurdish rebels.

The agency quoted unnamed sources as saying the buildup was part of an effort by the three countries to provide shelter within their borders to Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels fleeing the Turkish air and ground assault.

"Syria, the country which gives the biggest support to the separatist organization, has built up troops at the northern Iraq border using the excuse of a military exercise," Anatolian said.

Damascus declined to comment on the reports but said Ankara's incursion in Iraq, now in its eighth day, showed bad intentions against its neighbors. There was no immediate response from Iraq or Iran.

The Turkish foreign ministry condemned the Syrian move. "Syria is supporting the [Kurdish separatist party], cursed by all the world as a terrorist organization, and is using terrorism as a tool in its foreign policy," spokesman Omer Akbel said.

A Kurdish television station in Belgium said about 50 Iraqi tanks had moved closer to the edge of the Kurdish enclave, but the tanks remained in government territory.

The station also said Syria had begun war games to the south of its border with the Iraqi Kurdish enclave three days ago.

The anti-Baghdad Iraqi National Congress said it had received reports from the area of a buildup by Iranian and Iraqi forces on the borders of the "safe haven." A spokesman for the group in London said Iranian Revolutionary Guards had been sent to the border regions. Iraqi Republican Guards were gathered between the government-controlled city of Mosul and Dohuk, inside the enclave.

More than 10,000 Turkish troops last week began a major cross-border operation in pursuit of separatists who use northern Iraq as a base to launch raids into southeast Turkey.

Turkey showed no signs of letting up on the operation yesterday, ferrying in more troops and supplies. Military sources say more than 1,300 rebels have been killed so far.

## Harvard professors misused US grant

BOSTON (AP) — The US government suspended a \$14 million contract with Harvard University, because two employees abused their positions as advisers to the Russian government and misused US funds, newspapers reported yesterday.

The government canceled the contract — the last part of a \$57 million grant — on Tuesday.

The university employees who allegedly abused their positions were the Harvard Institute for International Development's general director in Moscow, Jonathan Hay, and the director of the project, Andrei Shleifer, who also is a professor of economics.

Since 1992, Harvard scholars have helped Russian officials with

changes in government operations, the legal system and markets.

The US Agency for International Development wrote to Harvard Tuesday that a preliminary investigation found Hay and Shleifer "abused the trust of the United States government by using personal relationships, on occasion, for private gain." The agency said Hay "used resources financed by US AID to support the private investment activities of Shleifer's wife, Nancy Zimmerman."

Support staff paid by the US government were involved in buying and selling Russian bonds, tracking deposits and withdrawals from Russian bank accounts and consulting about tax aspects of the investments, US AID said.

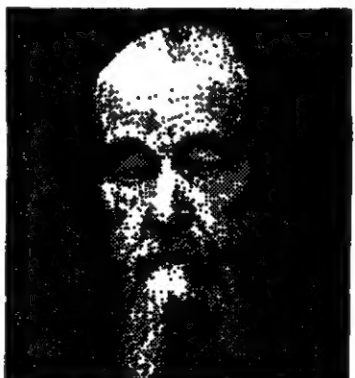
## Solzhenitsyn hospitalized with heart complaint

MOSCOW (AP) — Famed Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn was hospitalized with heart trouble earlier this month, but his illness was not life-threatening and he was recovering, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

The 78-year-old Solzhenitsyn was admitted to the cardiac intensive-care unit of the elite Central Clinical Hospital May 12 and has been undergoing treatment.

Munira Razova, who heads Solzhenitsyn's Russian Public Foundation, a charity aiding ex-Soviet political prisoners, said the writer was out of danger and appeared to be recovering.

"Alexander Iyevich had a heart pain and doctors advised him to be hospitalized," she said. "He's now feeling better." Razova said she did not know Solzhenitsyn's precise problem, but that it appeared not to have been a heart attack.



Alexander Solzhenitsyn. (AP)

The hospital, reserved for Communist leaders during the Soviet era and now catering to top government officials and rich businessmen, has a tradition of secrecy and is closed to the media. A spokesman for the hospital's chief doctor refused comment.

Solzhenitsyn, the 1970 Nobel Prize winner for literature, returned to Russia in 1994 after years of exile.

Solzhenitsyn spent eight years in Soviet prisons and camps under Josef Stalin and chronicled the cruel system in his novels and historical works, including *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, *The First Circle* and *The Gulag Archipelago*. He was later forced into exile spending most of it in the United States.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Solzhenitsyn's conservative and nationalist views have come under fire from liberal reformers, yet he's also despised by hard-liners for his anti-Communism.

Public interest in his work has faded. A state-run television network canceled his talk show and he has all but disappeared from view in recent years.

## New Congo flies its flag

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo (AP) — The new flag of the Democratic Republic of the Congo flew yesterday in the capital of its neighbor, which has almost the same name.

Expatriates from what was, until Saturday, known as Zaire, gathered outside its embassy and hoisted the yellow-stars-on-a-blue-background flag associated with Laurent Kabila's rebel alliance.

Kabila's forces took Kinshasa — across the river from Brazzaville — on Saturday, ending a seven-month rebellion against the 31-year autocracy of Mobutu Sese Seko, who has fled into exile.

Embassy staff joined the anti-Mobutu expatriates for the brief ceremony, which did not involve going inside the embassy.

The ambassador himself was not present. His whereabouts were unknown.

## 200 die in Bangladesh cyclone

GENEVA (Reuters) — A devastating cyclone in Bangladesh this week killed at least 200 people, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs said yesterday.

It also reported widespread destruction of houses after the cyclone roared in from the Bay of Bengal Monday, battering coastal areas with 200 kph winds.

A UN statement said the government of the South Asian nation was trying to assess the damage. UN relief officials will take part in an airborne survey mission with donor representatives later today.

Some 1,500 fishermen were missing in the Bay of Bengal, many feared drowned, officials in islands off the coast of Bangladesh said.

The UN said normal communication channels to Cox's Bazar, a port near Bangladesh's border with Burma and one of the areas worst hit, were not functioning.

It reported acute water shortages in the city of Chittagong, because of disruptions in electricity supplies.

## Wanted: 007, no experience necessary

LONDON (Reuters) — The first open advertisement for recruits to Britain's Security Service, MIS, was published yesterday.

Nestling among *The Guardian* newspaper's job ads for social workers and local government officials, domestic intelligence service MIS solicited applicants for what it called "a very special part of Her Majesty's Government — the Security Service."

Bonds will have to curb their appetite for fast cars and dry martinis, as the salary on offer is "good rather than lavish." The advertisement — under the slogan "Intelligence — Use it to create waves and prevent repercussions" — marks a radical change for Britain's spy services, which in the past preferred less direct recruitment.

Potential agents were often identified while at Oxford and Cambridge universities and sounded out over a glass of sherry by a tutor with connections to the secret world.

MIS began a policy of greater openness under its recently retired chief, Stella Rimington, the agency's first woman head.

With the end of the Cold War, MIS has taken a leading role in the fight against Irish republican terrorists. Britain's other main spy agency, MI6, handles agents abroad.

The two agencies are each estimated to have an annual budget of

£125 million MIS 650 million.

The ad itself seemed a test of potential applicants' discretion. "Try and avoid telling your friends about your application, because discretion is a serious part of working for the Security Service," the ad said.

MIS identified marketing executives, teachers, fund raisers, overseas aid workers, academics and journalists as suitable candidates.

"Exceptional powers of communication and persuasion will make you adept at talking your way into situations with the opportunity for gathering useful information, as well as the resourcefulness to extract yourself from less promising circumstances," the ad said.

"The ability to deal with ambiguity and make decisions on partial information is essential. Security threats never conform to a neat routine and neither will your work — so flexibility is also essential," it added.

Although describing MIS as "a career like no other," the advertisement was coy about exactly what successful recruits would find themselves doing.

"Can you imagine a job description which said, 'we are going to teach you to lie, cheat, tap people's phones, eavesdrop on other people's conversations, manipulate people through their weaknesses?'" intelligence expert Philip Knightley said.

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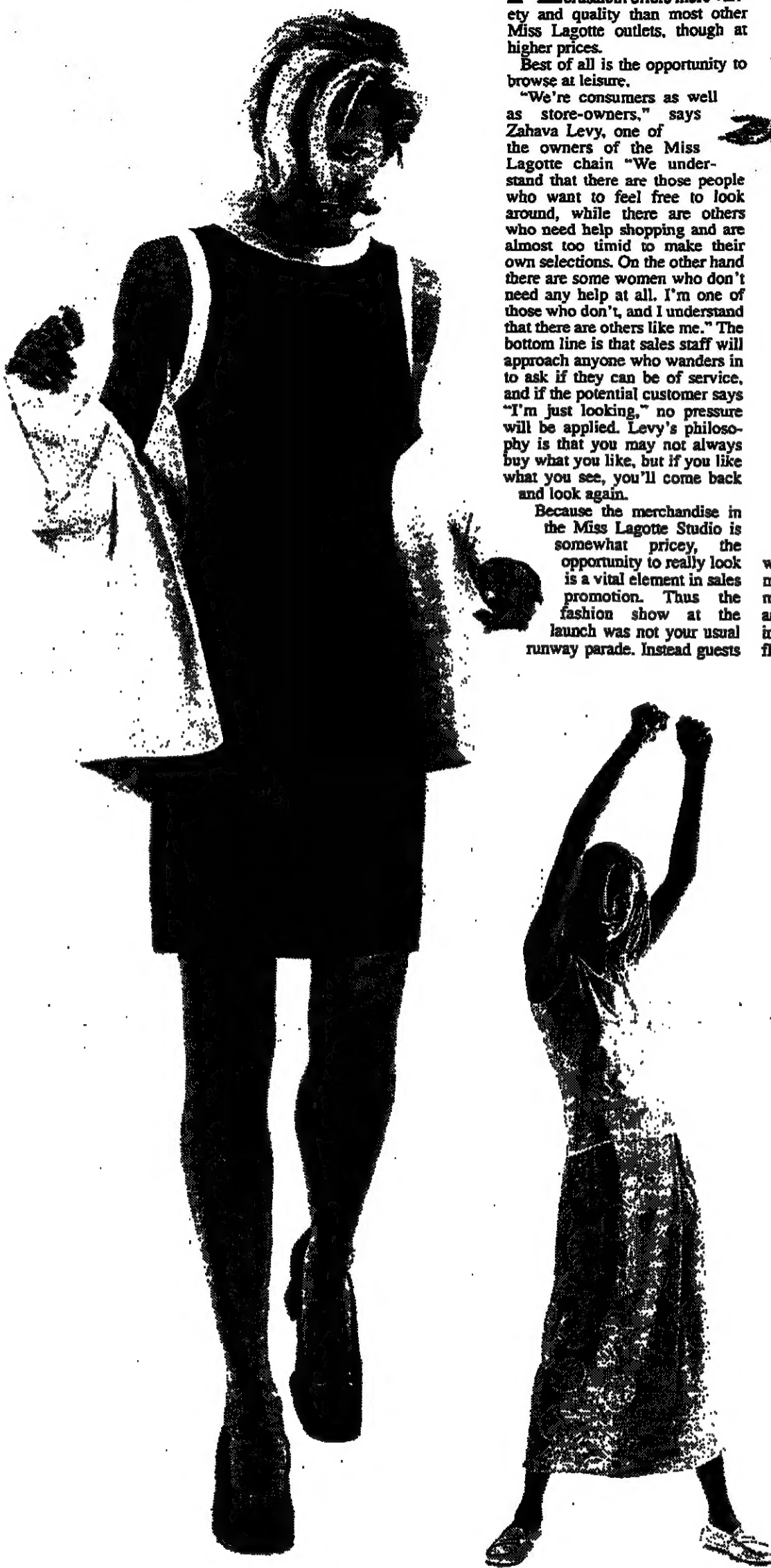
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## Close the wage gap

An article on "Working Women in Israel," which is to be issued by the National Incomes Administration in the Treasury later this month in its annual report, contains a statistic that should provoke serious reflection regarding inequality in our society. The report concludes that the average salaried woman in Israel earns a gross salary that is only 61 percent of the gross salary of the average Israeli male.

This large gap is not one that can or should be passed over silently. The differences in salaries reflect in many cases hardships that are borne by single mothers and families dependent on two income earners and their children. They can also be demoralizing on a personal level, not to speak of the economy-wide losses implied by such salary differentials.

In discussing possible remedies for this situation, however, a note of caution should be sounded against jumping to the easiest conclusion, that the salary gaps reflect discrimination by employers that can only be dealt with by direct "corrective actions" and legislated compensation.

The main paradigm for dealing with problems of discrimination was established by the American civil rights movement of the 1960s. In many cases, overt discrimination against African-Americans in the southern states of the US was overcome by direct legislation, sometimes backed by police action, ensuring free access to public buildings, stores, and educational institutions. Attempts to apply this sort of approach to other situations, however, often failed to achieve desired results, because they did not fully deal with more subtle, underlying factors at the root of inequalities.

For example, many years of attempts in a number of countries to equalize the numbers of women and men enrolled in doctoral programs in the exact sciences, by establishing admissions preferences for women, have made frustratingly little progress. This is because this approach cannot contend with the fact that the male/female ratio of applicants for these positions is so heavily skewed, apparently reflecting deep-seated attitudes formed in childhood.

This is not to say that, when it occurs, direct salary discrimination against women is not abhorrent or should not be dealt with by law. In fact, Israeli law already requires "equal pay for equal work" and prohibits any sex-based discrimination in such matters. To the extent that such discrimination occurs — and it undoubtedly does in some cases — the law should be fully enforced.

However, even the authors of the Treasury report on women's wages reportedly recognize that there are many factors in addition to discrimination behind the salary differentials. Statistics of the type appearing in the Treasury report do not typically examine in detail the

comparative wages of men and women working side-by-side on the factory floor or at their computer terminals, but rather aggregate the total amount in salaries earned by women and men nationwide, and then divide by the representative number of working women and men. Such an approach, however, overlooks a number of factors which can account for differences in wages and salaries, including working hours, years of experience, and educational background: even in cases in which there is no blatant discrimination whereby women are paid less than men for comparable work.

These factors are related to deeply held attitudes and choices within society. Decisions regarding the educational and career tracks chosen by men and women are influenced by societal attitudes, and can have significant effects on salary differences. In Israel, as in virtually every country, women typically bear the main burden of raising children. As a result, many of them either drop back to part-time work or drop out entirely from the workforce for a number of years in order to be available for their children's upbringing. This alone can account for large differences in reported average salaries, since it means that women on average work fewer hours than men. It also translates into a loss of crucial mid-career years of experience, which can have large effects later on, when promotions are made to the senior and most highly-paid positions in corporations.

Finally, it should not be forgotten that Israel is composed of a patchwork of separate societies, ranging from secular Jewish to haredi to traditional Arab and Druse societies, each with divergent views regarding the proper educational and career opportunities that should be made available to women. These differences are not insignificant and also affect statistics on women's salaries.

Given this wide array of causes, steps taken to close the wage gap should also be pursued in a number of different directions. At the school level, efforts can be focused on encouraging girls to pursue a wide range of educational tracks and opportunities. At a time when the teaching of values in schools has become a subject of major concern, the value of gender equality should not be neglected. In the working world, labor laws and the taxation system can be reviewed to ensure that they accommodate the needs of working women and mothers, without pushing them out of the work force.

Perhaps most importantly, funding for more day-care and longer school days must be found. This might sound incongruous at a time when budgets are being cut, but an exception must be made here, because the returns in higher education levels and the freeing of more women to participate in the work force are too important to be ignored.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PERFUMES

Sir, — In the health page of a recent edition of *The Jerusalem Post*, under the heading "Making no scents," a reader complains of choking and headache when exposed to perfumes or cologne. The response by Prof. Meir Shalit did not seem to get to the point.

Sadly enough, the truth is that our modern-day perfumes are not derived from flowers or plants at all, but rather they are synthetic chemical substances, cheaply mass-produced from by-products of the petroleum industry. These synthetic chemical oils have no

health benefits and tend to be quite harsh on the body, understandably leaving many people feeling ill. There is even a growing concern that some of these synthetic substances may be carcinogenic, or cause other major health problems.

It wasn't always this way, as these synthetics were only invented about 100 years ago. For thousands of years, perfumes and colognes were made exclusively from natural flowers and plants and were dispensed by doctors and healers as medicine. It was

also known that the very plant extract needed by a person for health-care reasons was the same one that would impart the nicest fragrance as a perfume for that person at that time.

Rather than assume that something is wrong with a person who reacts against chemical products, I suggest that something is wrong with many of the products being offered. However, one who searches diligently can still find natural alternatives.

AVRAHAM SAND  
Moshav Me'or Modi'im

### POLICE PROCEDURE

Sir, — On my second visit to your beautiful land, I was astounded to hear that Israelis who have shot back at criminals who threw stones or incendiary bombs at them have been detained and indicted.

I am a retired police officer. Where I come from, the explicit orders in such cases are: Shoot to kill. I am certain that, if Israel adopted the same rule, this scourge would vanish overnight. Why not try it?

ROBERT QUIGLEY  
Tempe, Arizona

### FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

Sir, — Yosef Lapid ("Can't smell the citrus," May 11) is very pessimistic about the future of the country and very critical of the prime minister, because of assumptions and assertions that are false. Lapid assumes that Arafat and the Palestinian leadership are interested in peace; I assume they are interested in replacing Israel with a Palestinian state. He assumes that the US will grow weary and leave us to the mercies of others; I assume that a responsible super-power has strong national self-interest in the Middle East and will not casually create a dangerous vacuum by

unilateral withdrawal from any area of importance in the world.

Lapid asserts that the Ashkenazi, secular and left-wing elite is alienated from an establishment that holds it in contempt; I assert that this elite has contempt for any group in Israel that challenges its hegemony over Israel. Lapid considers the nationalist right wing to be fanatics; I consider the left wing to be messianic fanatics because they believe they can make peace with Arab murderers and terrorists, but not with Jews who disagree with their world view.

Lapid asserts that the prime min-

ister is a liar and a fool; I think that Netanyahu will oppose handing over to the Palestinians 90 percent of Judea and Samaria or handing over to Syria 90 percent of the Golan, as the previous government tacitly agreed to do, and would have done if they were still in power. I know what Netanyahu wants: a Jewish state that cares more for its national self-interest and the security of its citizens and for its Jewish and humanistic traditions than it does for the accolades of erstwhile fair-weather friends outside of Israel.

NOACH MILGRAM  
Kochav Yair



ILLUSTRATION

## Expose this provocateur

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG

Incitement, like beauty, is in the eyes of the beholder. Last week's purportedly objective TV documentary financed by David Mosevics and directed by Michael Karpin harped constantly on one theme: that right-wing provocateurs, influenced by Benjamin Netanyahu, then leader of the opposition, created the climate for Yigal Amir to murder Yitzhak Rabin in November 1995.

About the role of Rabin himself and his administration, there was nothing. Yet hours before the assassination, Rabin was fulminating against Netanyahu and the entire national camp, accusing them of disseminating the "betrayal, murder" slogans hurled at the premier every time he appeared in public.

Even before this, as Rabin's popularity sank ever lower in the polls, he and his ministers were calling Likud leaders collaborators with Hamas, whose suicide bombers killed some 200 Israelis during that period.

In a bid to drive home the wickedness of the right-wing fanatics, Rabin said that although he personally was not bothered, they upset his wife Leah when they screamed their taunts on Friday afternoons outside the couple's Ramat Aviv apartment.

A reasonable enough complaint — except that the leader of those screaming banshees who gave Leah Rabin such a headache on Sabbath eves was a certain Avishai Rabin, whom Karpin "forgot" to interview for his documentary.

Rabin, for those who might have forgotten, was the obedient General Security Service operative who was ordered to create violence-orientated rightist gangs, preferably kippa-wearing. This was decided after it became clear that no such gangs existed at that time.

Rabin's creation, Eyal, specialized in chanting things like "traitor, liar," at Rabin.

Then GSS boss was Carmi Gillon, appointed personally by Rabin despite opposition from high-ranking security officials. As head of the organization, he surely knew about Rabin's dangerous game as provocateur. And Gillon's boss was the prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

The makers of Ilana Dayan's *Fact* program, which presented the film, were well aware of Rabin's controversial role. Yet they too ignored Rabin, a key player.

Which leads us to an obvious conclusion: Mosevics and Karpin set out quite deliberately to mislead the public, on the basis that the bigger the lie and the more

often you repeat it, the more people will believe you.

By inciting the Left against the man who is the democratically-elected prime minister and leader of the entire Israeli national camp, Mosevics/Karpin are guilty of the very crime for which they condemn Netanyahu.

Let us take our case one logical step further: Mosevics/Karpin are doing nothing less than inciting to murder — of Netanyahu. If this sounds too harsh, let us look at the facts.

It's no secret that there have been warnings of attacks against

**The role of Avishai Rabin in the Rabin assassination must be placed under public scrutiny now**

the prime minister ever since he took office.

To forestall such an eventuality, extraordinary steps have been taken by the security services to protect him. Jerusalem motorists snarled in traffic have seen for themselves just how professionally the prime minister's bodyguards ensure his safety.

When Netanyahu went to the cinema in Tel Aviv recently, dozens of seats around him were filled with sharp-eyed security men, who rarely glanced at the screen.

In the same city a week ago, there was a massive traffic jam along the coastal road — all because Netanyahu was having a night out in a nearby restaurant.

In recent months, left-wing journalists and politicians, mocking these super-safety precautions, have displayed the hypocrisy and myopia typical of our "freethinkers."

These are the very same scribes who bitterly attacked the GSS for being so slack in guarding Rabin as to allow Yigal Amir to shoot him from point-blank range.

IT IS worthwhile looking at the mind-set of Mosevics, financier of the documentary, or, more accurately, of this blatant piece of brainwashing.

So outraged was he when Netanyahu won the election by a landslide of Jewish Israeli votes that he paid for a prominent advertisement in *Ha'aretz*.

It quoted the biblical story of

how the Prophet Elijah, speaking for the Almighty, said to King Ahab, who had murdered Naboth then seized his vineyard: "Have you killed and also inherited?"

Within a day or two, "Have you killed and also inherited?" appeared in black and red graffiti on walls in the Ramat Aviv area; it was repeated in the chic cafes Mosevics frequents to this very day.

So we see why it was inconvenient for Mosevics and Karpin to include Rabin — because many of the incitement incidents blamed on the national camp and Netanyahu were in fact instigated or encouraged by this GSS provocateur.

It was Rabin, for instance, who arranged for and directed the video in which an "armed right-wing militant student group" took aim at a dummy of "Rabin the traitor." The clip was repeatedly shown on TV.

And the provocative poster of Rabin dressed as Nazi Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler was created by two youngsters who took part in a summer holiday camp on the Kinneret run by Rabin. They handed the posters, mounted on sticks, to Rabin at the Zion Square rally held in Jerusalem a month before the assassination.

Rabin brought one of the posters to the attention of TV reporter Nitzan Chen, pressing him to air it that very night.

The opprobrium heaped on Netanyahu by this shameful film cannot go unanswered.

The prime minister should act boldly and insist that the Shamgar Commission's findings be presented in full — specifically that the blanket of secrecy surrounding Rabin's evidence be removed.

Teenage girls who met Rabin at the settlement of Ma'ale Yisrael told the commission that they heard him urge Amir: "Be a man! Kill Rabin!"

Netanyahu, who knows more than we do about Rabin's role as agent provocateur, has been openly challenged and demeaned by this slanted and misleading film.

Mr. Netanyahu: You are GSS boss. In view of the film's distorted conclusions, you must demand that you be given the file detailing Rabin's activities, how he operated and who were the top men who approved the whole sordid operation.

Failure to do so would be to allow Mosevics/Karpin to get away with perpetuating nothing less than a blood-libel.

The writers are the authors of *Rabin: A State Crime* published by Belfond.

# Big deal

URI AVNERY

Imagine the following statement by the Catholic Church: "The Church grants scientists the right to determine the shape of the earth, and does not rule out the possibility that the earth is round."

Had the church passed such a decision in Galileo's time, it would be recorded as a bizarre joke of history.

Such was the nature of Labor's recent resolution which recognized the Palestinians' right to self-determination, without ruling out the possibility of a Palestinian state.

Kudos to the Labor Party! A mere 30 years late, it has finally acknowledged that the earth is round, and that it revolves around the sun.

In Galileo's words: And yet it moves. Even the Labor party moves, from time to time.

Labor's resolution does not take the trouble to specify the border between Israel and a Palestinian state, so its proponents could easily support Israel's annexation of half of the West Bank. What matters to Labor is that those patchwork remnants ultimately left under Palestinian control, surrounded by Jewish settlements and bypass roads, may be referred to as a Palestinian state.

About a year and a half after the Six Day War, I was contacted by ambassador Moshe Sasson, officially known as "the prime minister's representative in the territories." He said Levi Eshkol had requested that Sasson speak with me.

This request had been preceded by a serious confrontation I had had in the Knesset with Eshkol and Moshe Dayan.

I announced that I had met with the leaders of the West Bank, and that every single one supported the idea of a Palestinian state. Eshkol and Dayan categorically denied that this could be true. Nevertheless, shortly thereafter Eshkol sent Sasson to meet with me, in order to brief me on my meetings with the West Bank leaders.

We met in the Knesset cafeteria on November 19, 1968. Afterwards, Sasson, briefing the

**Labor 'does not negate the possibility' that the earth is round**

prime minister on our conversation, wrote, "There were no significant differences between my evaluations and those of Mr. Avnery." In other words, the West Bank leadership did indeed want a Palestinian state.

"However," continued the report, "neither Mr. Avnery nor I could point to a single West Bank leader willing to support the idea of a Palestinian state without Jerusalem.... Avnery agreed with my assessment that the question of sovereignty over an Arab capital in Jerusalem is a pivotal question." Sasson therefore ruled out the possibility that Israel would agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Almost three decades later, it seems that Labor hasn't learned a thing. The resolution not to rule out a Palestinian state is a sorry anachronism. In the absence of willingness to agree on Jerusalem as the capital of both states and to recognize the Green Line as the border between the two states, it is deceptive and shameful.

LET'S face it: The Palestinian state is already a *de facto* entity. The Palestinian territories have taken on the distinct characteristics of a sovereign state, with a flag, a parliament, a president, a government, laws, a judicial system, armed forces and embassies worldwide.

Dozens of countries already officially recognize the Palestinian state; many others regard it as a state for all practical purposes. Every visit by a foreign leader, every visit by Yasser Arafat makes to a foreign capital is accompanied by official state ceremonies.

Thus any argument over the principle of a Palestinian state is lost all meaning long ago. Today the argument is over borders, settlements, Jerusalem, and the refugees' right of return.

A party that has nothing to say on these issues, but instead prides itself on its leap from the distant past to the not-quite-so-distant past, deserves nothing but ridicule.

What's the difference between Likud and Labor? The Likud persists in subscribing to the "flat earth" theory. Labor "does not negate the possibility" that the earth is round.

Big deal.

The writer heads the Peace Bloc.

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



This woman was notorious for being (1) too beautiful (2) too fat (3) dumb. The answer is (2). Last year's Miss Universe, Alicia Machado of Venezuela, ended her reign last week after a year of criticism for putting on weight. As you can see, she's absolutely plotting.

(Reuters)

## POSTSCRIPT

CRACKING THE international markets is a goal of most corporations. But even the big multinationals run into trouble because of language and cultural differences. For example...

The name Coca-Cola in China was first rendered as Ke-kou-ke-la. Unfortunately, the Coke company did not discover until after thousands of signs had been printed that the phrase means "bite the wax tadpole" or "female horse stuffed with wax," depending on the dialect. Coke then researched 40,000 Chinese characters and found a close phonetic equivalent, "ko-kou-ke-le," which can be loosely translated as "happiness in the mouth."

In Taiwan, the translation of the Pepsi slogan "Come alive with the Pepsi Generation" came out as "Pepsi will bring your ancestors back from the dead."

Also in Chinese, the Kentucky Fried Chicken slogan "finger-lickin' good" came out as "eat your fingers off."

The American slogan for Salem cigarettes, "Salem — Feeling Free," got translated in the Japanese market into "When smoking Salem, you feel so refreshed that your mind seems to be free and empty."



# A Master of peace of mind

A Zen Buddhist teaches that Israelis must make peace with themselves before they can hope to make peace with their neighbors.  
**Rikki Horowitz reports**

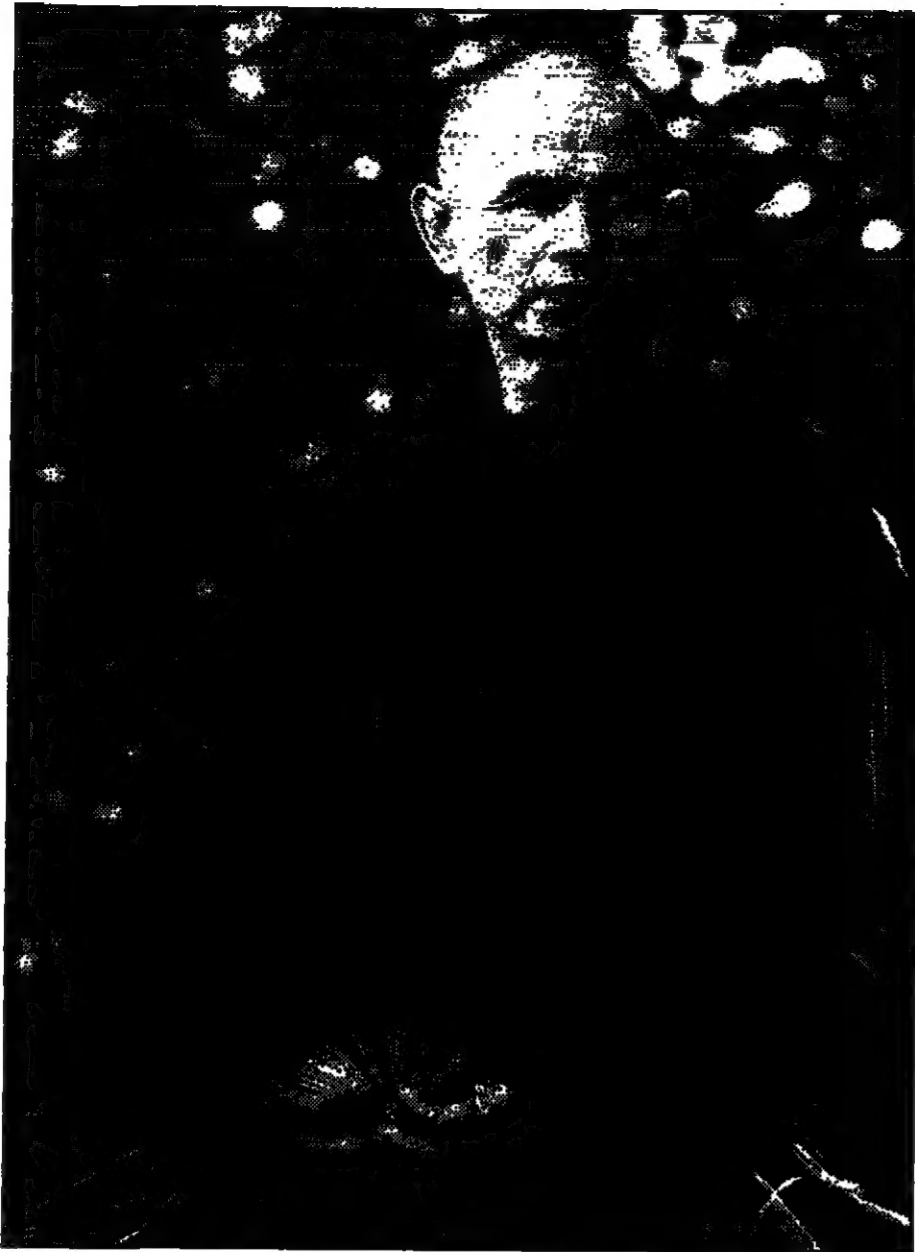
**A** renowned Zen Buddhist monk, once nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, brought his message to Israel this week. Thich Nhat Hanh (pronounced Tick Not Han) urged Jews to return to their roots in a series of sold-out workshops and lectures. The 71-year-old Vietnamese-born scholar, peace activist and spiritual leader preaches a non-sectarian form of Buddhism that focuses on meditative practice as a way of life, rather than a religion, and encourages people to embrace their own traditions.

"Everywhere I go, I urge people to stick to their roots," Thich Nhat Hanh quietly explained in a rare private interview. "You remain a Jew when you practice the teaching I offer and you become, maybe, a better Jew (or a Christian or a Hindu). You have to help make your tradition grow in the direction that will help the young people go back [to it], because I know that a person who gets uprooted from his tradition is an unhappy person."

In a retreat at Kibbutz Harel, last weekend, the Zen master demonstrated his techniques. "Breathe in - think in breath, focus on your in breath. Breathe out - outbreath, focus only on your out breath. In - deep, out - slow, in - calm, out - ease, in - smile out - release, present - moment, breathe in, wonderful, out - moment." The 250 participants at a retreat on "Mindfulness and Compassion in Action" followed instructions, doing short meditations, walking meditations, mindful speech, deep listening, and close observation of one's experiences, staying always in the present moment.

"All sources of spirituality are the heritage of all mankind," he said.

"Buddhism is more away of life than a religion. Everyone knows that Buddha was not the creator of the cosmos. He's only a teacher. In the Jewish and Christian traditions we learn to live in the presence of God. Our Buddhist equivalent is the practice of cultivating mindfulness. If we change our daily



Thich Nhat Hanh: 'Everywhere I go, I urge people to return to their roots.'

lives - the way we think, speak and act - we begin to change the world."

Engaged Buddhism, the movement he founded in 1964, promotes staying in the world, not closing oneself off from it. He stresses the importance of finding ways to speak out and work against social, political, and economic injustices, while maintaining one's composure and meditative awareness.

In the early '60s, Thich Nhat Hanh founded a grassroots relief organization that rebuilt

bombed villages in Saigon. He rallied 10,000 student volunteers to set up schools and medical centers and resettle homeless families, but was denounced by the government and exiled in 1966. In the US, he met with federal officials, including then-secretary of defense Robert McNamara, to press for peace, and persuaded Martin Luther King Jr. to publicly oppose the Vietnam War. The following year, King nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Thich Nhat Hanh led the Buddhist delegation to the Paris Peace Talks in 1973.

One of his followers, Michael Rosenbush of Paris, was inspired to bring him to Israel following Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Rosenbush felt the Buddhist master had much to teach the Israeli public, based on his own experiences dealing with war, bombing, suffering and trying to bring peace and reconciliation to his people. "He's an example of how to deal with the past, how to create a reality by embracing former enemies, and behaving with love and compassion and understanding, as he puts it - watering the seeds of love, instead of anger which turns to hate," said Rosenbush.

Still banned from Vietnam, Thich Nhat Hanh lives in Plum Village, a contemplative Buddhist community he founded in France in 1982. He continues to work to relieve the plight of refugees, boat people, political prisoners and hungry families in Vietnam and throughout the Third World. He has published some 75 titles of poetry, prose and prayers, including 20 in English, among them *The Miracle of Mindfulness* and *Being Peace*. His book *Touching Peace* was published in Hebrew this week.

"Thich Nhat Hanh is a model of the practice he teaches," says Rosenbush. "He's given much and has much to give to people. Therefore, his coming to Israel to teach - not to convince people - is an important step to take at a time when there are such divisions within the historical reality of this area."

Thich Nhat Hanh's message to Israelis was that healing must begin within the Jewish community; only then can peace be achieved with enemies. "I know it's not easy, but if we can restore peace within the Jews, within the different sections of the Jewish population, this is the most fundamental way for peace."

"If you can't make peace with yourself, how can you make peace with the other side? Of course we have to deal with things like bombing and terrorism, but it's much better to deal with these things in a calm attitude, out of compassion and lovingkindness, than to use the energy of anger to do it. Because in anger we make mistakes."

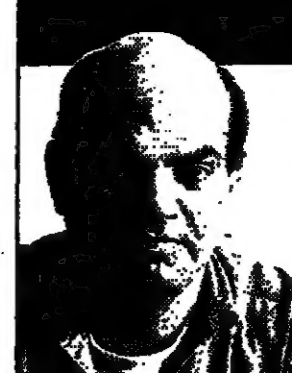
"Here you can do a wonderful melting pot, he continues. "Although you are very different from each other, you can profit from these differences in order to make a very special Israeli culture: a synthesis. Maybe that is what God expected you to do as the chosen people of God - to come out of suffering by the way of peace, of non-discrimination, of lovingkindness. If you can do that, you can teach the world a lot."

Thich Nhat Hanh's final lecture will be held at Ohel Shalom in Tel Aviv on Monday at 8 p.m. For more information or tickets, call (03) 528-5750.

Not Page One

Half the fun is flying there

By Sam Orbaum



**N**a Nach Nachma Nachman

from El Al. Nachman Klieman is the spokesman, PR manager - and complaints trouble-shooter - for the first Hebrew airline in 2,000 years. He seems the perfect sort of chap to put his ear on the line. He's sympathetic and earnest, rather than slick and glib. He prefers the personal approach over form letters. When you've got Klieman on the phone, El Al doesn't seem so monolithic.

The former Chicagoan, at 49 the same age as his favorite airline, can reel off facts and stats and survey results and industry comparisons, but that's not Not Page One stuff. It's the stories he tells.

"There was this one lady, a woman journalist from Tel Aviv, who objected to prayers being conducted near her seat. She asked that they be stopped, even threatening to strip. She was told, sorry, if you'll be a bit patient, they'll be finished soon."

"Sure enough, she stood up in front of the men, and started removing her blouse. Well, she ended up backing down before they did, and lost her nerve before going too far." The *minyana* is, of course, a trademark of El Al. "It gives people a feeling of being at home, and it's not just religious Jews, it's religious Christians as well. Sure, some people complain a bit, but generally Israelis won't pay any attention to it; tourists do, they admire it; you'll see them craning their heads to watch."

"El Al has created an environment that we're proud of," says Klieman. "The taste of Israel starts as soon as you get on board." For good and bad.

"There's an attitude of 'this is my airline, since I pay taxes, and I can do what I want and if they tell me not to smoke in a non-smoking area, I can ignore them because this is my company and I can do so.'"

"On the other hand, there's an environment of friendliness where people talk to each other. You may not see that in other airlines, where people just sit there and don't move throughout the flight." Mind you, other airlines like it that way. "Tel Aviv is recognized in the industry as a difficult destination. The passengers are, um, a little more difficult." We like to see what we can get away with.

"We had a couple check into a flight where the woman was nine months pregnant. She hid that fact by wearing a large coat. Technically, you're not allowed to fly after the seventh month unless there's a doctor's letter."

"Anyway, the plane took off, nonstop to New York, fully loaded with 400 passengers. About three hours out of Tel Aviv, she went into labor."

"They decided to land in London, but that meant getting special authorization, because of noise-abatement restrictions; we had to prepare an ambulance, wake up El Al staff in the early morning to get to the airport to take care of all the passengers and the aircraft. And of course there was the huge inconvenience to 400 people, the missed connections."

"We incurred a lot of anger, and a lot of unnecessary costs such as landing fees and takeoff fees and handling fees and refueling and time loss. Anyway, we got the woman to a hospital in time, and she had the baby."

"Now, technically, we could have sued her. But instead, we sent her flowers."

"That's the kind of thing that sets us apart, our compassion."

"Remember, we're the airline that dropped everything and

changed its schedules to bring hundreds of thousands of Russian immigrants day and night to Israel; that converted an airplane, instead of in 12 days, overnight, to bring Ethiopian immigrants during Operation Solomon."

Klieman brightens as he recalls another story. "We had a passenger to Frankfurt who lost his wallet in the terminal, containing about \$3,000 in cash. One of our ground hostesses found it. We traced the passenger to his flight and we let our Operations Department know, and they radioed the pilot, who relayed the message to the purser who went and told the passenger. He didn't even realize he'd lost it."

"We told him not to worry, we'd put the wallet on the next flight to Frankfurt, so you'll get it tomorrow, we'll make all the arrangements. The guy was thrilled, wow, what service!"

"A little while later he calls over the purser and says he's got a problem. He has a meeting in Frankfurt, and the guy's name, address and phone number were in the wallet. 'Can you help me?' he said."

"So the purser went back to the pilot, who radioed Operations, who contacted Lost and Found, who looked in the wallet and got the information, which was relayed back the same route

**"Tel Aviv is recognized in the industry as a difficult destination. The passengers are, um, a little more difficult."**

through Operations, to the pilot, the purser, the passenger."

One of El Al's best marketing coups, and certainly its most peculiar, dates back to the mid-1980s and its effects are still being felt. "We heard about a young boy in the States whose father was a Sioux Indian, and his mother Jewish. The boy, Little Sun Bordeaux, was the heir to the title of Chief. We looked into it and found out that he was truly Jewish, having been circumcised by a Denver mohel."

"We invited him to celebrate his bar mitzva here. The result, in public relations, was outstanding. Wherever he went, from the moment he came off the plane, he was covered by the foreign media, even Japanese TV. The aftereffect was, in the United States, people began to realize they could come here for a second bar mitzva celebration. It gave a boost to an industry that has grown tremendously."

The very first El Al passenger was Chief of the Twelve Tribes, paleface president Chaim Weizmann. He had to be flown here in September 1948 from Geneva for his induction. Problem was, the only planes the new state owned were military, which were not permitted to land on a civilian airfield.

"So overnight, the new government created a national airline. They demobilized a military plane, bolted in two sofas and painted the outside with the biblical phrase 'El Al.' Then they found a good-looking secretary, who was working late, and made her our first stewardess." It was a daring risk: putting a passenger in flight without having set up a complaints department.

## THERE AND THEN

### Salonika: A pre-war Garden of Eden for Jews

By SHIRAZ SHAPIRO

**I**t was the Salonikans who saved Tel Aviv from starvation when, during the Arab revolt half a century ago, Jaffa port was closed to Jews. A jetty was constructed near the estuary of the Yarkon river. Launches carried sacks of flour from a ship moored offshore, and former Salonikan stevedores carried the sacks on their back from the jetty to a makeshift warehouse on the shore.

Only Salonika could do it: They had the role of handling the port duties.

Up to the end of the Turkish era, a visitor described Salonika as a garden of Eden for the Jews. And, although they wore the baggy Turkish-style trousers and a turban on their heads, the sailors on local ships, the stevedores in the port and the obsequious custom agents were practically all Jews. And most of the landlords and the workers on the land probably were too.

The story of the Jews of Salonika over the nearly 300 years that it was under Turkish rule (it reverted to the Greeks and to its Greek name of Thessaloniki in 1912) is told by some 10 scholars in *Yemai Hasahar* (The Days of the Crescent), edited by Miriam Rozen, who holds the chair for the history and culture of the Jews of Salonika at Tel Aviv University.

Theirs was hardly a pastoral existence. Indeed, the bitter persecutions they had to suffer under the Christian lords of Byzantium



Turn of the century Jewish family from Salonika.

ceased under the Ottomans. Salonika became a safe haven for refugees in search of relative security from the intolerance of Spain and Germany. From Salonika and other towns in the Balkans, Jewish traders were able to facilitate the exchange of goods between western Europe, via Venice and Leghorn, and the East, through Istanbul and Egypt.

Commerce was, of course, a traditional "Jewish" trade. But so too were medicine, banking and textiles. Over the years, Salonika became an important center of wool weaving.

The Salonikans invited experts to teach them how to produce all sorts of salable commodities, including wine. But hazards lurked in many quarters. Izmir, across the Aegean, vied for the same markets Salonika

nurtured, as did the other Balkan ports such as Ragusa (Dubrovnik).

The Sublime Porte - the central government in Istanbul - was interested mainly in money. To taxes that existed under Christians were added new ones, which the community could not sustain. The Jews tried the impossible: Rabbi Moshe Almosnino led a delegation to Istanbul and, after three years, obtained from the Sultan an exemption from certain dues. However,

ports such as Ragusa (Dubrovnik).

Being a majority, however, did not give the Jews of Salonika any political power. They could not exercise any influence on the political history of the place they lived in. The Jews of Salonika were not able to defend themselves when history put them at the mercy of the Germans towards the end of World War II.

Almosnino was not appreciated by everybody back home - some people refused to participate in the expenses of the expedition because, they claimed, they could do it more cheaply by bribing local officials.

Each group of immigrants insisted on having a synagogue of their own - a phenomenon known throughout the Diaspora. But what caused a real rift in the community was the tension between rich and poor. Francos, immigrants from Christian countries who sought protection from the consuls of the states from which they came, had made fortunes. The rabbinical establishment often sided with the rich, yet there were instances, such as one in Izmir, when the wealthy leaders of the community sacked a rabbi whose adherence to the letter of the law was more than what they were prepared to suffer.

But when Christian missionaries tried to make inroads into the Jewish community, the rich reacted with parallel help to the needy. On the whole, the mainly American Baptist missionaries who were active in the Levant in the 19th century, were unsuccessful among the Sephardi Jews of Salonika, Izmir and Istanbul.

Being a majority, however, did not give the Jews of Salonika any political power. They could not exercise any influence on the political history of the place they lived in. The Jews of Salonika were not able to defend themselves when history put them at the mercy of the Germans towards the end of World War II.

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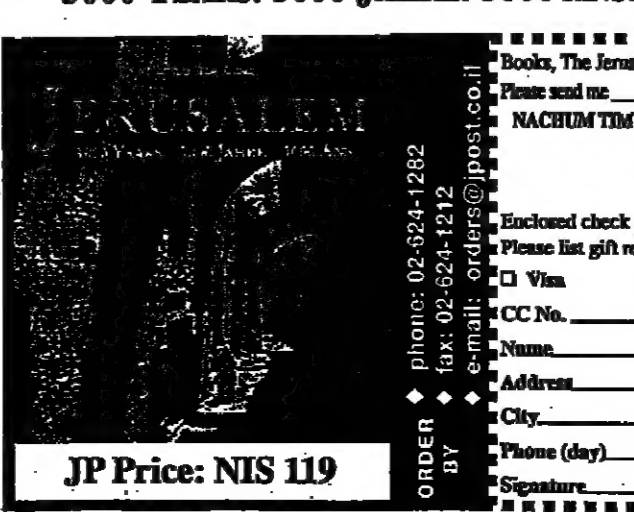
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## BUSINESS

in brief

### PM, Meridor meet to discuss budget cuts

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday once again failed to reach agreement on the size and composition of the planned additional budget cut for this year, during the latest in a series of meetings on the subject.

Sources in both the Prime Minister's Office and the Treasury have confirmed that Netanyahu and Meridor are committed to making a cut, but want to ruffle as few feathers as possible when they bring their proposals to the cabinet. The aim of the cut is to bring the budget deficit back down to the government-set target of 2.8 percent of gross domestic product by the end of the year.

David Harris

### Tax inspectors seize 20 vehicles in Tel Aviv

Some 20 vehicles were seized by 150 tax inspectors and police officers yesterday during an operation that covered all of Tel Aviv. The aim of the mission was to use drivers' commercial certificates to ascertain if the vehicles were owned by people that have failed to pay their VAT bills. Most of the exercise was conducted in the Carmel market and Nahalat Binyamin areas, with roadblocks being set up at several of the entrances to the city.

David Harris

### Treasury: Knesset bills could be costly

If private bills introduced to the Knesset by individual MKs over the last two years are passed they would have increased government expenditure beyond its budgetary means, according to a report published in part this week by the State Revenues Department.

While an overall total has not been formally calculated, Treasury officials said the bills would have cost the state at least NIS 3 billion and, in all probability, a far larger sum.

More data will be published over the next fortnight as part of the department's annual report for 1996. From the research conducted on the figures for 1995 and 1996, it has become apparent that many of the bills were connected to the family unit, with demands for expenditure on education and childcare. Examples included changing the definition of a child for national insurance purposes from 18 to 21.

David Harris

### Knesset to explore poor-performing training fund

The Knesset Capital Markets sub-committee will next Monday hold a debate on the low returns of the Engineering Training Fund Ltd. over the last 16 months. During that period, each of the 35,000 members of the fund have lost an average of NIS 1,200 in comparison to those in similar funds, according to sub-committee chairman Silvan Shalom.

David Harris

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## JNF: Arab real estate purchases prove land-reform plan is bad

By DAVID HARRIS

Non-Jews, particularly Arabs, are purchasing hundreds of dunams of land throughout Israel, but particularly in the North, Jewish National Fund director general Yitzhak Elyashiv said yesterday.

The JNF decided to make this information public in its continued battle with the National Infrastructure Ministry over the Ronen committee recommendations for the reform of the Israel Lands Administration.

The JNF said it is determined to fight against such purchases, even if it means taking out sizable bank loans to fund land acquisitions.

"We have published this information via the media because we are not being invited to meetings on the Ronen committee with [National Infrastructure Minister Ariel] Sharon or the government," said JNF

spokesman Moshe Pearl.

"In recent years there has been a recognizable increase in attempts by non-Jews to purchase land in Israel," according to a JNF statement.

In particular, the land originally purchased by the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association for private settlements during the 1930s is being targeted.

The main geographical locations where land has been sold include Zichron Ya'acov, Binyamina, Kfar Tavor, Migdal and Nazareth. Additionally, in recent weeks a Jewish family sold dozens of dunams near Atarot in north Jerusalem. The JNF claims that it has purchased some 300 dunams of land that was likely to be bought by non-Jews.

The fear of the JNF is that under the recommendations of the Ronen committee, which will move much state-owned land into the hands of private citizens, there will

be a return to the situation created by the actions of the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association in the 1930s and subsequently there could be further sales of land to non-Jews.

Last month Sharon said he plans to introduce legislation to prevent real estate purchases by foreigners.

While Sharon fully supports the Ronen recommendations, his spokesman Ra'anan Gissin welcomed the JNF's intention to buy land from private hands to prevent it being bought by non-Jews. The ILA, under the National Infrastructure Ministry's jurisdiction, cannot purchase land, and so, he said, it is appropriate for the JNF to try to acquire land for the Jewish people.

He also pointed out that at present the ministry has no powers of enforcement to prevent sales.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser Ahmed

Tibi told reporters he believes Israeli laws controlling the sale of land are racist, claiming this is the only country in the world that places such restrictions on who can buy land.

While not going as far as Tibi, MK Avraham Porat (Meretz-Shinui) said yesterday he believes those interested in purchasing property, be it in a shared apartment building or land, should be allowed to buy no matter what their background.

"There is no reason to act otherwise in a democracy," he said.

This debate comes in the wake of a PA proclamation that any Arabs caught selling land to Jews could receive a death sentence. Within days of this statement, land dealer Farid Bahiti was murdered.

The government is expected to discuss the Ronen committee recommendations tomorrow, during its weekly cabinet meeting.



What, no pretzels?

A robot demonstrates its beer-pouring ability yesterday at the Technology '97 exhibition in Tel Aviv.

(Dan Osdendyver/Israel Sun)

### COMPANY RESULTS

## Tadiran 1st quarter net down 17% to \$15.5m.

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Tadiran Ltd. reported a 17 percent drop in first quarter net income to \$15.5 million in 1997, compared with \$18.6m. in the same quarter last year.

Revenues for the quarter were up 3.1%, totaling \$277.8m.

In early morning trading, Tadiran's NYSE-traded shares rose moderately to \$26.625.

The company attributed the decrease in profits to several of its subsidiaries becoming export-driven. Tadiran Telecommunications, in particular, has experienced a sharp decrease in sales to Bezeq, while export sales have increased dramatically. The company expects that Tadiran Telecommunications' exports will continue to increase at a rate of 50% per year over the next few years.

The company also said that adverse conditions in the export market negatively affected Tadiran Appliance's results for the second consecutive

quarter. In April, Tadiran sold 26% of the appliance division to Carrier Corporation Group. Capital gains will be recorded in the company's second-quarter results.

Tadiran Ltd. is Israel's largest electronics company and Israel's fourth largest industrial concern in terms of sales volume. The company's subsidiaries operate in the communications, telecommunications, electronic systems, electrical appliances and batteries and computer software markets.

Tel Aviv-based textiles and fashion manufacturer Kitan Consolidated Ltd. reported a 10% drop in net income to NIS 6.9m. compared with NIS 7.7m. in the same period one year ago.

Revenues for the quarter totaled NIS 194m., compared with NIS 166m. in the first quarter of 1996.

The company said that the results reflect both an improvement in the company's industrial

performance as well as a decrease in its subsidiaries' profits. Tango and Golf reported decreases in profitability, while Gabor is undergoing a restructuring program.

The company also said that a slowdown in the local market, the shekel exchange rate and Pesach falling in April affected the company's results.

Integrated Technology USA, Inc. recently announced first quarter net losses of \$609,906, compared with \$318,092 in the same period one year ago. Net sales for the quarter increased nearly 140% to \$263,000, compared with \$110,000 in the same period last year.

The company attributed the increase in net sales to an increase in sales of the company's product, CompuPhone 2000, a computer keyboard designed to integrate the computer and telephone markets.

Based in New Jersey, ITI operates a research and development center in Israel.

## El-Op expands sales to S. American air forces

By STEVE RODAN

El-Op Electro-Optics Industries has increased its presence in South America, entering several upgrade projects for regional air forces, executives said yesterday. The projects include a contract

to supply a compact HUD (head-up display) for the Pampa, the trainer for the Argentine Air Force. The system is an electro-optical mechanism that superimposes flight and sensor information on the pilot's forward field of view.

Another HUD system has been supplied for the F-5 in the Chilean Air Force.

El-Op also supplied the HUD with Stroke-on-Raster mode capability for the AMX fighter-jet in the Brazilian Air Force. The supply is part of the El-Op contract with the Brazilian contractor Aeromot, which includes technology to that company to manufacture and maintain the

system. "El-Op is working to develop a wide range of HUDs for different aircraft - military, combat planes, trainers, and helicopters - in response to the demands of its customers worldwide," El-Op's vice president for marketing and business development, Yosef Gaspar, said.

The Rehovot-based company is currently entering the upgrade project of the Brazilian ALX combat trainer. El-Op has agreed to supply the airborne laser rangefinder and designator, which increase the pilot's ability to bomb targets by marking them with a laser beam and directing the laser guided bomb to the target. The chief contractor for the upgrade is the Sao Paulo-based Embriar.

El-Op executives said their company is hoping to participate in the coming months in the F-5 upgrade for the Brazilian Air Force. This includes providing the F-5 with the head-up display. "This program is supposed to be realized in the course of this year," Gaspar said, "and it will provide El-Op another element in its success in the airplane upgrade field, through the wide range of displays that fulfills the demands of the market both in operational requirements and in competitive price."

El-Op is a private company

owned by the Federman group. It employs 1,800 people and reported \$270 million in sales in 1996.

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U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.675	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	1.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	
Yen (¥10 million)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.5.97)				
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Currency basket	3.6754	3.7047		3.7042
U.S. dollar	3.3609	3.4152	3.30	2.3880
German mark	1.5923	2.0245	1.95	2.0080
Pound sterling	5.5746	5.6848	5.47	5.7575
French franc	0.5913	0.5908	0.58	0.5961
Japanese yen (¥100)	2.9506	2.9502	2.95	2.9785
Dutch florin	1.7724	1.8010	1.74	1.7885
Swiss franc	2.3916	2.4302	2.35	2.4241
Swedish krona	0.4480	0.4553	0.44	0.4515
Norwegian krona	0.4770	0.4857	0.46	0.4818
Danish krone	0.5233	0.5318	0.51	0.5273
Finnish mark	0.6595	0.6702	0.64	0.6548
Canadian dollar	2.4672	2.5070	2.42	2.4985
Australian dollar	2.5138	2.5581	2.56	2.6354
S. African rand	0.7332	0.7654	0.72	0.7579
Belgian franc (F10)	0.9533	0.9805	0.94	0.9730
Austrian schilling (S10)	2.6312	2.6708	2.78	2.8533
Italian lire (L1000)	2.6234	2.6981	1.98	2.0391
Jordanian dinar	4.7404	4.9180	4.68	4.8279
Egyptian pound	0.9600	1.0400	0.96	1.0642
ECU	3.8911	3.9539		3.9148
Irish punt	5.1673	5.2507	5.07	5.1989
Spanish peseta (P100)	2.3672	2.4054	2.32	2.3855

\*These rates vary according to bank.

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## SPORTS

in brief

## Said Anwar powers to 194 for one-day record

MADRAS (Reuters) - Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar smashed the highest individual score in one-day internationals yesterday - 194 against India in the Independence Cup.

Anwar powered Pakistan to an imposing 327 for five from their 50 overs in the last preliminary match of the four-nation tournament.

Left-handed Anwar beat the previous record of 189 by former West Indies captain Viv Richards against England at Old Trafford in 1984.

Anwar hit 22 fours and five sixes as he made his runs off 147 balls. He plundered 26 runs in one over from leg-spinner Anil Kumble, including three sixes.

## 2 more US athletes said to have tested positive

MONACO (Reuters) - Two more athletes from the US have failed drugs tests just days after the emergence of cases involving leading Americans Sandra Farmer-Patrick and Mary Slaney.

Athletics sources said yesterday that the US Track and Field association was expected to report the new cases to the sport's governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), in the next few days.

## Leonard to captain Lions in first match

DURBAN (Reuters) - England tighthead prop Jason Leonard was named yesterday as captain of the British Lions for the first match of their eight-week tour of South Africa.

The Lions selectors decided to rest tour captain Martin Johnson for the game on Saturday against an Eastern Province invitation side after the Leicester player's demanding season in the northern hemisphere.

## IAAF ratifies world records of Johnson, Bailey

MONTE CARLO (AP) - It took nearly 10 months, but sprinters Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey finally got their names in the record books.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation yesterday formally ratified the world records set by the two at last summer's Atlanta Olympics - Johnson's 19.32 seconds in the 200 meters and Bailey's 9.84 in the 100.

IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said it took so long to ratify the records because of delays in obtaining the paperwork from US track officials.

"We wrote I don't know how many letters to USA Track and Field," Reineri said. "When we finally received all the documentation, we immediately ratified the world records."

## Flyers grab 2-1 series lead with 6-3 win

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Eric Lindros scored a hat trick as the Philadelphia Flyers seized the lead in the NHL's Eastern Conference finals and regained momentum and home ice advantage with a 6-3 win over the New York Rangers on Tuesday.

The Flyers bounced back from Sunday's 5-3 loss in a big way, dominating the early play and responding to every challenge the Rangers mounted in the third period to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

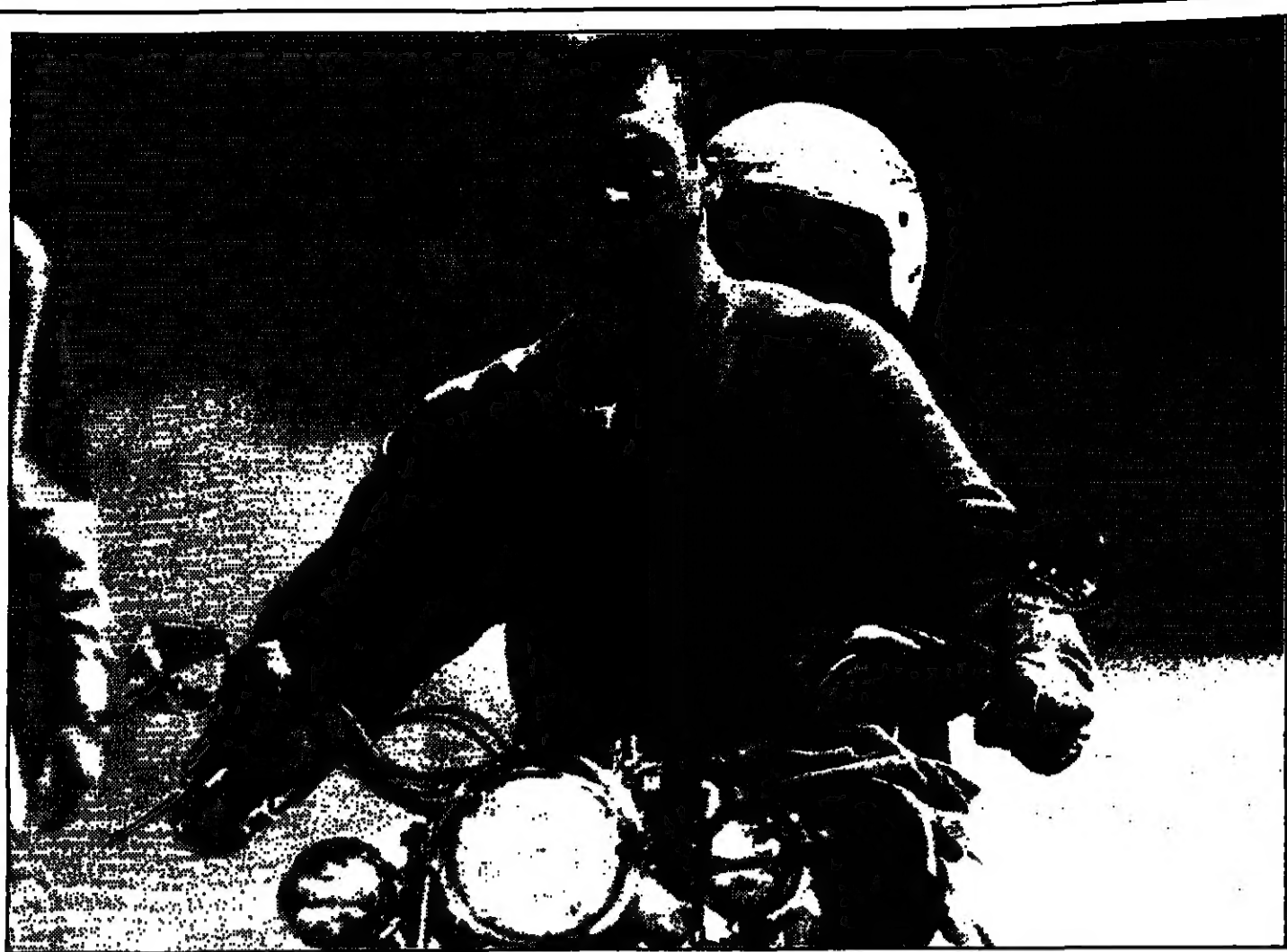
Rangers goaltender Mike Richter, who surrendered just four goals in the entire five-game series against New Jersey in the previous round, was beaten five times by the determined Flyers, failing to make amends for his teammates' defensive lapses.

Russ Courtnall scored twice and Wayne Gretzky notched his 10th goal of the playoffs for New York as the Rangers twice tied the game in the third period only to see the Flyers quickly regain the lead each time.

The Flyers opted to go with veteran goaltender Ron Hextall after Garth Snow allowed five goals on 10 shots in Game Two and the move paid off.

Hextall stopped all 16 shots he faced over the first two periods and finished with 25 saves.

New York gets a chance to even the series tomorrow at home.



## Easy rider

Eric Cantona takes his son, Raphael, for a spin on his Harley Davidson yesterday. Cantona, who announced his retirement from professional soccer earlier this week, is vacationing with his family in southern France. (Reuters)

## Bulls charge back to beat Heat in Eastern finals opener

CHICAGO (Reuters) - The Chicago Bulls held the Heat to just 11 points in the fourth quarter as they charged to an 84-77 come-from-behind victory over Miami on Tuesday in the opening game of the Eastern Conference finals.

Michael Jordan scored 37 points, Scottie Pippen had 24 points and Dennis Rodman pulled down 19 rebounds for the Bulls, who trailed by as many 16 points in the first half, by 11 at half-time and by five at the end of three quarters.

"They obviously showed their greenness at the end of the game with their defensive pressure,"

Heat coach Pat Riley said. "We succumbed to that." The fourth quarter belonged to the Bulls, who took advantage of loose ball handling by Miami and the Heat's abysmal shooting from the foul line.

Miami converted just 4-of-13 from the charity stripe in the last quarter as Chicago outscored them 23-11 to take first blood in the best-of-seven series.

Game Two is today in Chicago.

Alonzo Mourning, who played sensational defence in the first half, led the Heat with 21

points, while sparkplug guard Tim Hardaway contributed just 13 points.

The defending champion Bulls, who had a long wait to start this series as Miami battled back from a 3-1 deficit to eliminate the New York Knicks in seven games, took a while to get untracked and scored just 17 points in the first quarter.

Miami faded down the stretch, making just 3-of-12 shots from the floor, but coach Riley would not blame the defeat on fatigue stemming from their draining series against the Knicks.

## New-look Gascoigne returns to England squad

LONDON (AP) - After a six-month absence, Paul Gascoigne has returned to the England soccer squad looking fitter and leaner than ever.

Coach Glenn Hoddle's preparations for the World Cup qualifier in Poland on May 31 have been hampered by injuries to key players Steve McManaman, Robbie Fowler, Paul Merson and Matthew

Le Tissier. But the return of a fit - rather than fat - Gascoigne has heightened the spirits of Hoddle and his players.

"He's looking as lean and fit as anything," said Hoddle about the talented midfielder, who has lost 7.7 kgs to weigh in at 72 kg. Gascoigne has been disturbed by injuries and a troubled private life since he last played for England in

his World Cup qualifying defeat of Georgia last November.

But Hoddle, who has been critical of Gascoigne's wayward lifestyle, believes that he has developed a mental toughness to match his new-look physique.

"His attitude is very good at the moment," said Hoddle. "We've had a good long chat and I'll be speaking to him again no

## Israel complete first stage of training for Russia

By DEREK FAITAL

Israel's national soccer squad wrapped up its first two-day training camp yesterday evening with a 2-0 win over the Under-23 team.

The session was the first get-together for the national side ahead of its important World Cup Group 5 qualifying match against Russia in Moscow on June 8.

Eyal Berkovic was in fine form yesterday and swept in to score the side's opening goal in the 30th minute, with Assi Domb following up later in the match with the second.

With the English Premier League having ended, Berkovic and Tottenham's Rommie Rosenthal will continue fitness training with Maccabi Haifa in the run up to the match against the Russians.

Berkovic is being courted by West Ham as well as his current club Southampton, while Rosenthal, approaching the twilight of his career, is still awaiting a firm offer for next season.

Coach Shlomo Scharf was fairly pleased with the squad's display yesterday and announced the recall of Celta Vigo's Haim Revivo for the next training session.

Revivo, one of the five players dismissed from the national side's last World Cup outing against Cyprus last month, scored at the weekend in his club's 3-1 defeat by Barcelona in the Spanish first division.

Scharf also hinted that first-choice center half Gadi Brumer could be invited to the squad if he overcomes his current fitness problem in time.

The coach's central concern remains deciding on who will cover for captain Tal Ben-Haim who will sit out the Russia game due to suspension. Hapoel Tel Aviv's Alon Hazon is shaping up to be the most likely replacement.

## Stoichkov still not part of Bulgarian team

SOFIA (AP) - Bulgarian star Hristo Stoichkov, who is at odds with his country's soccer officials, has been left out of the Bulgarian team for a World Cup qualifier against Luxembourg next month, the coach said Tuesday.

"This is solely my decision," coach Hristo Bonev said. "I have invited him four times so far, and he refuses." Since Bonev's appointment in 1996, the 31-year-old Stoichkov has continually boycotted the Bulgarian team.

He is demanding the resignation of Bulgaria's soccer chiefs because they replaced former coach Dimitar Penev, who led Bulgaria to a best-ever fourth place in 1994 World Championship.

Facing three crucial home matches versus Luxembourg, Israel and Russia, Bonev has invited striker Lyuboslav Penev, who plays for Spain's Compostella and midfielder Yordan Lechkov, who plays for France's Olympique, Marseille. Neither was on the squad for Bulgaria's 4-1 win over Cyprus in April.

Penev, nephew of Dimitar Penev, has declined earlier invitations because he is close friends with Stoichkov. It was not immediately clear whether Penev would accept the invitation.

Lechkov told Bulgarian radio he would decide after a personal talk with Bonev.

Bulgaria is third in European group five with nine points from four matches, trailing Israel with 13 points from 6 games and Russia with 11 points from 5 games.

## England favored in one-day series

LEEDS (AP) - With Australia short of match practice, England have a chance to grab an early psychological edge in the Ashes series by winning the first of the three one-day internationals at Headingley today.

The Australians, repeatedly robbed of valuable match practice in their nine days in England, also suffered an injury blow when batting all-rounder Greg Blewett was ruled out with an inflamed left knee tendon.

"It will be nice to win the one-day series because the side that wins it, comprehensively, will carry a big psychological advantage into the first Test match," skipper Mark Taylor said.

England are unbeaten in five consecutive one-day series at home under captain Michael Atherton.

"Australia are one team we haven't played or beaten in this kind of trophy," Atherton said. "We are keen to get off to a good start and grasp the initiative for the rest of the summer."

Australia's last warmup match against Durham was washed out on Tuesday without a ball bowled, further setting back the team's preparations.

Woods, Zoeller finally bury Masters remarks

FORT WORTH, Texas (Reuters) - Tiger Woods and Fuzzy Zoeller held their long-awaited, face-to-face meeting at Colonial Country Club on Tuesday and both golfers said they hoped they could at last put the Masters incident behind them.

Zoeller drew a firestorm of criticism for his remarks at the conclusion of last month's Masters about what record-setting winner Woods might decide to have served at next year's Champions Dinner.

Zoeller had already publicly apologized for his clumsy stab at humor, but Tuesday's 20-minute lunch in the players dining room was their first face-to-face meeting, one that Woods had said he was looking forward to.

"We had a nice lunch and a nice conversation. I let him know how I feel and heard what he was thinking and now it's behind us," Woods said. "Now I understand the entire situation and hope we can both have a good week this week."

Zoeller who had described his life as "total hell," since the incident, did not appear at Tuesday's news conference, but said he was glad to have the meeting behind him.

## Griffey hits 20th homer of season

ANAHEIM, California (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr. hit his major league-leading 20th home run, a 470-foot drive off Jason Dickson in the Seattle Mariners' game against the Anaheim Angels on Tuesday night.

Griffey got his 20th in the Mariners' 44th game of the season. Roger Maris got his 20th in game 55 when he hit 61 in 1961. Babe Ruth got No. 20 in game 52 when he hit 60 in 1927.

Last season, Griffey had 49 homers despite playing only 140 games because of a broken bone in his right wrist. In 1994, he had 40 homers in 112 games before players went on strike. He got his 20th that year in game 42.

"That's three years ago, I'm not even worried about that," Griffey said before the game. "Things happen for a reason. We just weren't able to finish out that year."

"I don't think about going up there and hitting a home run," he said. "I'm just trying to have fun. If it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't. I mean, I'm 42 homers away right now. I can't go up there thinking about hitting home runs."

What I've got to do is go up there thinking about what I can do to help this ballclub become better."

Indians 4, Royals 3  
In Cleveland, Manny Ramirez hit a two-run homer in the bottom of

## National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	31	13	.705	-
Florida	27	18	.628	3 1/2
Montreal	24	18	.571	6
New York	23	21	.523	8 1/2
Philadelphia	17	26	.395	13 1/2
Central Division				
Houston	23	22	.511	-
Pittsburgh	21	22	.488	1
St. Louis	18	25	.419	4
Chicago	15	28	.348	7
Cincinnati	14	29	.326	8
West Division				
San Francisco	25	17	.595	-
Los Angeles	23	19	.548	2
Colorado	23	20	.535	2 1/2
San Diego	17	25	.405	8

Tuesday's NL games: Florida 6, NY Mets 5; Atlanta 4, Montreal 2; St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 1; Cincinnati 7, Houston 4; Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 2; San Diego 7, Los Angeles 3; San Francisco 6, Colorado 3.

Tuesday's AL games: Cleveland 4, Kansas City 3; Toronto 2, NY Yankees 0; Baltimore 4, Detroit 3; Chicago White Sox 10, Boston 1; Minnesota 4, Milwaukee 3; Texas 8, Oakland 3; Anaheim 11, Seattle 9.

## American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	29	13	.690	-
New York	25	19	.568	5
Toronto	22	19	.537	8 1/2
Detroit	18	24	.432	12 1/2
Boston	16	25	.390	12 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	21	20	.512	-
Kansas City	20	21	.488	1
Milwaukee	19	21	.476	1 1/2
Chicago	19	22	.463	2
Minnesota	18	25	.419	4 1/2
West Division				
Texas	24	17	.585	-
Seattle	24	20	.545	1 1/2
Anaheim	22	20	.524	2 1/2
Oakland	17	28	.378	9

Tuesday's AL games: Florida 6, NY Mets 5; Atlanta 4, Montreal 2; St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 1; Cincinnati 7, Houston 4; Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 2; San Diego 7, Los Angeles 3; San Francisco 6, Colorado 3.

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# Weizman: We must negotiate with Syria

By BATSHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman yesterday urged the government to rethink the situation in Lebanon and to return to the negotiating table with Syria.

"There can be no solution to the situation in Lebanon unless Israel and Syria sit down to negotiate," Weizman said at a swearing-in ceremony for 14 new magistrate's court judges at Beit Hanassi.

"These are moments of truth. We have to raise questions with the Syrians that are very painful to many people in this country. I am speaking as someone who spent most of my life in the military," the president said. "I have just returned from a visit in Tiberias, to the family of one of the boys who fell last week in Lebanon. On my way back, I heard there had been another attack in Lebanon."

"The boys who volunteer for the fighting units are the salt of the earth. They are highly motivated. But we have to offer them the chance of living differently."

Weizman said he knows the choice could divide the nation. "We have to think it through very carefully: We can plan new battle tactics - or we can sit down and talk peace." The late premier Menachem Begin, he said, had embraced Anwar Sadat when the Egyptian president came to Jerusalem 20 years ago to talk about peace.

Weizman also called for an end to the stalemate with the Palestinians.

"The Oslo agreement is the step-child of the Camp David Accords, which talk of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We committed ourselves to a permanent solution by 1999. I am pleased to hear there are people who are talking about reaching such an agreement even earlier. We have to keep our commitment."

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# Barak, Hanegbi propose major court reforms

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The authority of the country's magistrate's courts will be increased and the district courts will deal mainly with appeals. Supreme Court President Aharon Barak said yesterday.

Barak said this is part of a reform of the courts which he has proposed together with Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

"There are 414 judges in Israel today, more than 300 of them in magistrate's courts," Barak said at a swearing-in ceremony for 14 new judges at Beit Hanassi. "The status of the magistrate's court will change," Barak told them, "[and] you will have to carry more of a burden." He said there

would be "no choice but to increase the number of judges in the country."

Barak also called for "decriminalization of the penal code." He said that increasing numbers of crimes could be defined as administrative irregularities on which fines should be imposed. Fewer civil disputes should be brought to the courts, he said. Instead they could be resolved within the community, out of court, or through arbitration. He was discussing this with Hanegbi as well, Barak said.

There are two major objectives that can be achieved before the 50th anniversary of the state, Hanegbi told the new judges.

"First, a substantive change in national priorities is required so

that suitable funding will be possible that will strengthen the judiciary system and the prosecution," Hanegbi said. The second objective, he continued, is to "ensure the full independence of the judicial authority."

"Too much interference in the workings of the judiciary on the part of the government... leads to a collapse of public confidence in its judges," he said, adding that this, in turn, could affect the entire democratic system.

"The justice minister does not need to retain the large number of administrative privileges which the law currently grants him... The proposed change would not weaken, but rather strengthen the Justice Ministry," Hanegbi said.

# Psychologists strike over low wages

By JUDY SIEGEL

A strike by all the psychologists in the public sector that began yesterday elicited many requests to the union to deal with emergency cases in disadvantaged areas. The state psychologists are protesting against their "embarrassingly low" wages.

Directors of mental health stations reported that residents of the poorer neighborhoods, who cannot afford private treatment, suffer the most from the strike.

The union said that the strike was fully observed, with workers' assemblies in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa during the day. It will continue until further notice

and includes clinical, rehabilitation and developmental psychologists working for the Health Ministry and Kupat Holim Clalit.

Strike organizers received many appeals from patients who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other problems whose anxieties grew due to cancellation of sessions with their psychologists.

Dr. Baruch Elitzur, a clinical psychologist at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, said that due to the strike over wages, the condition of patients suffering from trauma as a result of terror attacks and other events will undoubtedly deteriorate.

# Ministry seeks to regulate clinical trials on humans

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry will urgently prepare legislation to regulate clinical trials on human beings, Minister Yehoshua Matza said yesterday.

Matza raised the issue in a discussion that included representatives of the Health, Justice and Science ministries and a judge and an ethics expert. All agreed that technological developments create many problems, especially in the ethical field, but they are also vital for the advancement of medicine and the development of new drugs and treatments.

It was disclosed that some 900 clinical trials on medications and medical equipment are carried out

here each year in all the hospitals. The officials noted that the fact that many major pharmaceutical companies and research institutions are interested in Israel "demonstrates the high level of medicine" here.

But Matza recognized the need for state-initiated legislation to set down rules in this matter and appointed a small group of experts to present their recommendations during the next few months.

A newspaper recently claimed that experimental treatments and drugs developed abroad were being tested here, at risk to patients, because of lax procedures and eagerness in hospitals to get grants for testing.



Leaving nothing to chance

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer meets with National Student and Youth Council Chairman Oded Cohen yesterday. Hammer told him that a committee of educators and council members will discuss how to decide which matriculation exams will be given next year.

(Efraim Kilabnik)

# IBA news gets a reprieve

By HELEN KAYE

Channel 1 head Yair Stern has reversed his decision to cancel the English-language daily news broadcasts, and they will continue uninterrupted, English News head Steve Leibowitz announced yesterday.

"This is one time a letter-writing campaign has really paid off," he said.

Following Stern's proposal two months ago to close the department for budgetary reasons, staffers mounted a campaign to prevent this.

"We have received about 200 letters," Leibowitz said, "and Stern's office has received a lot more. Earlier this week he got 12 letters in a single day. Perhaps he was impressed by the quantity and variety of the appeals."

Leibowitz said that he got the good news from Stern at the end of the department's usual weekly meeting.

Both the AACI and the British Olim Society launched major campaigns he said. Letters and phone calls came from individuals, MKs, Foreign Ministry officials, organizations and institutions.

"Israel needs to be broadcasting

her own news perspectives and not let other stations [like CNN and BBC] form world opinions about Israel," wrote the Bridges for Peace organization's international director, Clarence Wagner.

The 31 nuns who run a home for handicapped children in Jerusalem signed the letter their Superior wrote, saying, "We are volunteers from about 10 countries and our common language is English."

The English Speakers Club of Ashdod wrote, new immigrants from Netanya wrote and even Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, picked up a pen. He wrote to MK Tzvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'Aliya) that canceling the English news is no longer in the cards.

The department's 1997 budget is NIS 1.2 million, a drop from NIS 1.72m. in 1996.

The 15-minute news segment is broadcast at 6:15 p.m. during the week, at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and at 5 p.m. on Saturdays to an audience estimated at over 100,000. This includes English-speaking residents, tourists and diplomats. According to Leibowitz, the program also is watched regularly by viewers in Arab countries as well as by Palestinians.

# Space scientists seek more funds

By LIAT COLLINS

The discussions in the Knesset Science and Technology Committee reached new heights yesterday - outer space. Space researchers attending the session complained of lack of funds, but MKs brought them down to earth by questioning the need to give more funds to the space program when the national health system is collapsing and there are other pressing social needs closer to home.

Uzia Galil, an Israel Prize winner who chaired the committee that established the Israel Space Agency (ISA), noted that Israel is a member of the "exclusive club" of eight countries which have succeeded in developing, producing, and launching their own satellites.

He said the government had not followed his committee's recommendations that the ISA receive a \$5 million annual budget; instead, it has to cope with \$2 million.

But committee chairman Dalia Itzik and MK Ephraim Oshaya (both Labor), questioned the priorities of funding. "I want to ask, can you look us in the eyes and say this is one of the most important matters on Israel's agenda, of the utmost priority, so that we can go from this meeting to the prime minister and tell him: 'You're neglecting this issue!'" said Itzik.

Oshaya told him: "An old per-

son who is lying at home without nursing care doesn't think about space. And neither does his family."

But the scientists had ready answers, noting that space research has practical benefits and is not just a matter of prestige.

Dr. Eran Shenkar, who specializes in the medical aspects of space research, countered Oshaya's argument by noting a study in the US which found that \$10 million is spent on hospitalization of the elderly with fractures. "Why wait until they are sick and then spend the money?" he asked. "Why not find the solution to osteoporosis? That's what they're trying to do in space, and then they won't even need the hospital beds."

Others argued that space research could help in the study of phenomena such as earthquakes. Prof. Giora Shaviv, head of the Technion's space research center, said the space program could help fund itself by producing marketable products to be sold by Israel Aircraft Industries and Raphael.

ISA director Avi Har-Even said a modern country must learn how to exploit its space resources.

Itzik seemed to agree, saying: "If Israel doesn't learn to use the potential [of space research projects] for the benefit of its citizens, it will be difficult for it to be considered a developed country."

**WEATHER**

Haifa 18-26  
Tel Aviv 18-25  
Jerusalem 19-25  
Beer Sheva 14-23  
Dead Sea 24-36  
Golan 12-24  
Tiberias 17-29  
Akko 15-22  
Safed 14-23  
Eilat 21-35

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy. Temperatures lower than usual for this season.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

City	Low	High	Notes
Amsterdam	12	54	21 70
Berlin	10	48	18 64
Buenos Aires	11	51	18 86
Caracas	18	81	18 86
Chicago	59	38	17 63
Copenhagen	54	38	17 63
Geneva	12	54	21 70
Hong Kong	24	29	75 84
Jakarta	24	29	75 84
London	11	57	21 70
Los Angeles	18	54	24 75
Madrid	11	57	21 70
Moscow	52	38	12 54

**Winning cards**

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the eight of spades, 10 of hearts, jack of diamonds and 10 of clubs. The results of the second draw were the queen of spades, ace of hearts, nine of diamonds and jack of clubs.

# Ministry investigating medication smuggling from PA

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza has asked his director-general, Prof. Oded Barabash, to look into complaints that medications not registered in Israel are being smuggled in from territories the Palestinian Authority controls.

The Manufacturers' Association, whose representatives met recently with Matza, said these illicit medications endanger public health and harm the local pharmaceutical industry.

The packages are brought into the PA marked "donation" and used by hospitals, the association claimed. Recently, infusion solutions from Japan were brought in for use in Palestinian hospitals and at Makassed Hospital in eastern Jerusalem, even though they had not been approved by the ministry.

Matza, who asked Barabash to formulate recommendations for his next meeting with the association officials, noted that the ministry allows the PA to import medical products from international organizations if the intent is not commercial use. The shipping documents must include a declaration from the PA health minister that the goods were received as a donation and then transferred to recognized medical institutions in the areas. They must, however, be approved by the health authorities in their country of origin, the Health Ministry spokesman said.

Since 1967, factories in the territories have manufactured pharmaceuticals for local use; these are not registered by the Health Ministry, which has not prohibited their sale in the territories, the spokesman said. Because it is difficult to differentiate between locally made and imported pharmaceuticals, it is hard to monitor pharmaceuticals in the territories.

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